

2023

IMPACT REPORT



SPACE FOR
GIANTS
www.spaceforgiants.org

Where We Work



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This is Our Moment

His Excellency Ian Khama, former president of Botswana, on the collective action needed to safeguard biodiversity.

In Botswana, we were truly blessed with the opportunity to develop a wildlife-based industry in the Okavango Delta that has become the jewel in the crown of Africa. However very few of Africa's 8,400 protected areas can generate tourism income due to lack of infrastructure, remote locations and in some cases, insecurity.

For the continent's iconic protected areas to survive and thrive, new ways to cover the cost of restoring and managing them must be found, which is why I am hopeful that Space for Giants' initiative to leverage the carbon markets will provide such a great way to safeguard the natural landscapes of Africa.

The voluntary carbon market is predicted to snowball as more companies make net zero pledges. It is currently valued at around \$2 billion, but estimates suggest that will increase to \$25 billion by 2030.

Internationally, 79 percent of large corporations have climate targets, and 89% of these turn to carbon credits for emissions they cannot yet eliminate.

Last year, I became the President of Space for Giants' advisory board for their carbon initiative. However, I must confess that we have not yet made the progress this opportunity demands.

Space for Giants have submitted carbon market proposals to governments in eight countries and investment propositions to over 40 investors. Our pipeline of projects includes crucial mangroves and marine ecosystems, tropical forests, and open savannahs, which have enormous potential to reverse species decline, help stabilize our planet and combat rural poverty.

But they are not moving as fast as we need them to. African governments must be engaged to catalyze nature-based carbon projects by creating an environment that enables investment. Investors need to provide early-stage projects with the capital needed to kickstart the endeavor.

Space for Giants remains committed to supporting governments to build their internal capacity and fostering efficiency to help the voluntary carbon market grow. This is a new lifeline for the natural landscapes of our planet. I've seen enough progress this year, especially in Uganda, to remain hopeful.

Carbon projects are a powerful tool that can deliver enhanced climate ambition, socio-economic development, and significant biodiversity and conservation benefits.

I promise to play my part. We must all play our part. This must be our moment. The future of the planet depends on our next actions.

His Excellency Ian Khama
Former President of Botswana and Green 14 President



His Excellency Ian Khama addresses guests at Space for Giants' CoP28 event



The Next Chapter



Dr. Max Graham,
Founder and CEO of Space for Giants

When I founded Space for Giants 13 years ago, our focus was on addressing the particular problem of elephants raiding smallholder farmers' crops in rural Kenya.

This year, our team has built more than 500 mobile solar-powered mobile electric fences in Gabon, a game changing intervention to address this same challenge, helping to protect the world's largest remaining forest elephant population in the process. You could say, therefore, that Space for Giants has stayed true to its origins. However this impact report demonstrates that Space for Giants is a very different organization to the one I founded.

For example this year alone we've trained hundreds of prosecutors and law enforcement officers on new guidelines to combat illegal wildlife trade across East Africa, including in South Sudan where very few NGOs operate. And this year as a consequence of significant investment and technical work, we secured permission to bring back indigenous eastern black rhinos to Loisaba Conservancy, which many of you will recall we created in partnership with The Nature Conservancy back in 2014.

These two areas of work illustrate the evolution of Space for Giants. Out of necessity, we are evolving further still, from a conservation organization to a restoration organization.

Our new carbon program, which we describe in this report, is a testament to this change. Through it we aim to leverage the carbon market to drive finance into the restoration of African natural landscapes. This process will not only combat climate change and rural poverty but it will also restore key habitats, making them available to keystone species again, creating critical reservoirs for biodiversity. You can read more about our ambitious work to make this happen in Uganda on page 6.

Building on our theme of restoration, In Kenya, this year we established a ground-breaking partnership with &Beyond that will see the development of two iconic high-end tourism facilities on Suyian Conservancy so that we have the sustainable finances to restore and protect this incredible new protected area for the foreseeable future. Read more about this on page 17.

As we look ahead to better times, and powerful global momentum to help restore and conserve Africa's beacons of biodiversity, which are essential not just for African wildlife but for all life on earth, I ask you to please continue to play your invaluable role. We simply can't do it without you.

Thank you.

Dr. Max Graham
Founder and CEO of Space for Giants

Safeguarding Uganda's Wildlife Refuge



Enabling Pian Upe to thrive in perpetuity for all Ugandans, and the world.

Uganda's Pian Upe Wildlife Reserve is a stunning ecosystem covering more than 2,275 km² (878 square miles) and home to 525 species of birds and 163 mammals, including cheetah, endangered African wild dog, a rare subspecies of roan antelope and Nubian giraffes.

In the past, elephants and rhinos would have roamed across the reserve but were lost to poaching. In recent years, Pian Upe has been unable to generate enough funding for it to be adequately managed, threatening ecosystem resilience, biodiversity, and the livelihoods of local communities.

In a pioneering agreement, Space for Giants, Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), Karimojong Overland Safaris (KOS) and nine district governments signed an agreement to begin co-managing Pian Upe in August 2022, and since then great progress has been made.

Justus Karuhanga, Country Head of Space for Giants in Uganda, said, "This co-management partnership brings together the Ugandan government and partners to fully restore Pian Upe as one of East Africa's premiere wildlife reserves, driving both economic and ecological benefits. It enables both the people and wildlife of Uganda to thrive."

In March, Peter Trevor joined the team as the Reserve Manager, bringing with him a wealth of experience and hit the ground running, prioritizing immediate needs and gaining short-term wins.

Throughout 2023, the co-management unit has worked toward the completion of a series of baseline assessments to guide the development of a holistic and achievable business plan to transform the reserve. The next step will be the development of a general management plan for the next 10 year cycle.

Highlights of our 2023 work include:

- 🦏 **The results of the first aerial survey of Pian Upe in over a decade showed a stable growth of wildlife of all key species**, including elephants, which is testament to the efforts of UWA and KOS. Nevertheless, the survey also indicated high numbers of illegal livestock in the eastern part of the Reserve, resulting in local displacement of wildlife. Later in the year a herd of elephants was spotted near Pian Upe. It stands as a beacon of hope for us all, proving that restoring the balance of the Reserve can result in the return of megafauna that has been lost.
- 🦏 **High-resolution satellite imagery of Pian Upe was procured to map cultivation areas**, both within and outside the area, as well as roads and human settlements.
- 🦏 **A giraffe survey completed** in collaboration with non-profit Giraffe Conservation Foundation (who introduced 29 Nubian giraffes to the reserve in 2019 and 2021) recorded 41 adults and new calves.
- 🦏 **We developed a preliminary tourism investment prospectus** in May 2023 to engage high-value ecotourism investors and operators in opportunities in the reserve with excellent results. Initial investment includes the opening of a new airstrip by KOS. Tourism operations are key to funding the ongoing management of the reserve.
- 🦏 **Progress was made to develop a nature-based carbon offset project** following our intensive analysis of the Reserve and in-depth financial understanding of the requirements for development, while engaging with key carbon stakeholders. This led to a request for Space for Giants to develop a national carbon strategy for the UWA, with Pian Upe acting as our pilot project.

By supporting Space for Giants you are helping to restore critical landscapes such as Pian Upe.



Pian Upe is
2,275 km²
(878 square miles)



Mapping our communities and wildlife

Space for Giants' satellite expert Wellington Ndirangu on harnessing the power of tech to further conservation goals

In 2023, Space for Giants began using satellite monitoring in Pian Upe, giving us an unparalleled ability to look at every nook and cranny of this vast and remote area. High-resolution images enable the creation of spatial and ecological maps with unprecedented precision.

This newfound level of detail has proved invaluable for monitoring habitat health and the distribution of key species, and for informing patrol planning and incident response. Imagery is refreshed every 24 hours, enabling swift action in the face of an active threat (whether that is a fire, deforestation, illegal logging or wildlife crime) to ensure positive outcomes for the local communities and wildlife populations.

Rapid response has become a linchpin in protecting Pian Upe's vulnerable ecosystems. Satellite imagery is highly cost-effective compared to traditional ground-based monitoring; it has become vital in safeguarding species and preventing irreparable damage.

Addressing Gabon's Human-Elephant Conflict



Our success story in Gabon sets a new gold standard in how electric fences can save lives, enhance livelihoods, safeguard elephants and protect the rainforest.

By Eric Chehoski, Space for Giants Director for Gabon

Wherever humans and wildlife share boundaries, conflict is inevitable. In many parts of Africa, human-elephant conflict is now the leading cause of elephant mortality.

At the start of 2023, Space for Giants set an ambitious goal to install 500 solar-powered mobile electric fences throughout Gabon to help mitigate the misery caused to rural subsistence farmers by crop-raiding elephants. Amid the hardest of political conditions, which resulted in a government coup, Space for Giants realized that goal in November. Indeed, we over-achieved on our agreement with the government to help address human-elephant conflict on a national scale.

The forest elephant is a critically endangered species on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List. The vast majority of the remaining number is found in Gabon, where the population has steadily increased in the last 30 years. Gabon is the only country in the world with a national distribution of elephants - they are found in 98 percent of all departments; everywhere except for in the capital city, Libreville.

The increasing number of elephants is, of course, positive for conservation. However it has brought destruction of subsistence crops, occasional injuries and death to local people and a corresponding sharp increase in the anger towards the species and conservation efforts in general.

Gabon is a unique country with a rural population of 700,000. The population of forest elephants competing with humans is estimated at 95,000. Villages are small and scattered, with a road network battered by an equatorial environment of intense sun and rain. Farmers use shifting agriculture practices in zones defined by customary law and generally plant in family units on plots of around two and a half acres on average.

Elephants can destroy entire livelihoods and a year's worth of labor in one night. Traditional methods to deter crop-raiding animals - which include sleeping in fields, lighting fires, and banging drums - have reached their limit. Under these conditions the government is under increasing pressure to undertake more drastic approaches, such as elephant culling.

To prevent that, Space for Giants worked hand-in-hand with Gabon's Ministry of Water and Forest to provide simplified mobile electric fences that can be easily installed, moved, and used by elderly farmers. We have set up bases in four of Gabon's nine provinces, where our teams install fences, train beneficiaries to use them, and follow up with an intensive monitoring and evaluation program.

The new simplified design of mobile fencing we pioneered proves over 95 percent effective in protecting crops from crop-raiding elephants. The value we provide to the rural Gabonese population cannot be overstated. Our fences might be seen as a short-term solution, but they are the only solution that is providing relief to farmers right now. As you can imagine, the fences are in high demand.

The Gabonese government hopes Space for Giants will install 1,000 more fences in 2024, and we plan to install bases in the remaining five provinces. To do that, we urgently need to raise funds. Your support is critical in ensuring this last stronghold for forest elephants remains secure.

Our fencing program is part of a greater strategic plan to ensure that conservation positively impacts people's lives. Conservation must be part of Gabon's economic development if it is to succeed, and only then can we safeguard the lives of elephants.

Gabon has put rigorous policies in place to defend its elephant and human populations. With the right support and resources, I am very hopeful for a future in which the two co-exist peacefully.



Space for Giants' technical team member conducting maintenance of the mobile electric fence.

Gabon is home to

70%

of all African forest elephants

500+

mobile electric fences installed

Our electrified fences have a high voltage

7000^v

to deter elephants, but a low current - meaning that fences are not dangerous to humans or animals

Fences are over

95%

effective



COP28:

Historic Agreement for Conservation

New hope for global commitment to take bolder steps to heal the planet

The twenty-eighth Conference of the Parties (COP28) held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, closed with an agreement intended to signal the “beginning of the end” of the fossil fuel era. It attempts to lay the ground for a swift, just, and equitable transition, underpinned by deep emissions cuts and scaled-up finance. This agreement, called the “UAE Consensus,” was proudly described by the COP28 presidency as a “historical” step. In the meantime, however, scientists confirmed that 2023 was the hottest year on record, underlying why action on this issue is so important.

Space for Giants hosted a special event at COP28 in the Gabon Pavilion in partnership with the Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) to launch our new white paper called “Building Africa’s Carbon Economy.”

African countries play a critical role in the global transition to net zero emissions. Space for Giants is committed to developing nature-based carbon projects to fund protected area management, wildlife conservation, and community-centered development initiatives across the continent. We provide recommendations for stakeholders to create an enabling environment in which carbon projects can succeed to benefit Africa’s people, economies, and natural ecosystems.

Space for Giants’ Director of Philanthropy Alexandra Bowes-Lyon said, “There are 8,400 protected areas in Africa that are highly significant from a conservation perspective but are currently highly degraded. These protected areas are capable of producing two billion carbon credits annually. Therefore, Africa is not just one of many solutions, but perhaps one of the single most significant solutions to climate change.”

What is Space for Giants’ carbon program?

Space for Giants believes carbon markets are a powerful tool for delivering socio-economic development alongside critical biodiversity and conservation benefits. Nature-based carbon projects can deliver a healthier and more sustainable future for the people living on the land. For investors, carbon markets can bring about attractive returns and help balance portfolios, and for businesses, they can provide the chance to meet increasingly important climate targets and commitments.

Space for Giants has created a program specifically to leverage the carbon credit market to unlock critical long-term funding to restore, manage, and protect some of Africa’s most iconic and important landscapes.

Over the past 12 months, Space for Giants has been working hard on a number of fronts to:

- 🦏 **Build a pipeline of protected area landscape carbon projects** across the continent by working with governments to secure the necessary mandates and paperwork.
- 🦏 **Educate and inform local stakeholders** - from conducting workshops in Mozambique and Tanzania to helping support the drafting of government policy in Kenya and Uganda.
- 🦏 **Identify the best technical partners, methodologies, and processes** to ensure that carbon projects are transparent and of the highest quality and standards of governance.
- 🦏 **Talk to investors and corporations** about the portfolio and opportunities to raise awareness, secure interest, and obtain early-stage project funding.



The Giants Club Dinner

During CoP28, Space for Giants and the Royal Commission for AlUla (RCU) co-hosted a Giants Club Dinner in the United Arab Emirates.

The exclusive event brought together 50 esteemed guests, including government leaders, business leaders, philanthropists, and major influencers at the desert location of Nara Camp, Abu Dhabi.

Guests of honor, His Excellency President Filipe Nyusi of Mozambique and His Excellency Ian Khama, Emeritus President of Botswana, gave powerful speeches reaffirming their commitment to the Giants Club and emphasizing the importance of supporting carbon markets to restore nature.

We were honored to welcome Giants Club member Diana Museveni, Ugandan President Museveni's daughter, and world-renowned artist Sacha Jafri, with whom we will announce a very exciting upcoming project.

At the dinner we were delighted to announce our partnership with Saudi Arabia through the RCU to support the restoration of protected areas. Saudi Arabia is emerging as an important regional and global player in nature conservation.

**The next Giants Club dinner will be announced shortly.
For more information contact giantsclub@spaceforgiants.org**



The Giants Club Dinner brought together powerful change-makers



The black eastern rhino has not been found in the region for 50 years

Reintroducing Black Rhinos

Working towards an incredible conservation milestone for Kenya's iconic species.



Relocating

21

black rhino will establish a new viable breeding population in Loisaba

Much of the latter part of 2023 was dedicated to preparing to relocate 21 eastern black rhinos to a new sanctuary in Kenya's Loisaba Conservancy. This globally significant translocation exercise will mark the return of the species to a region where they have not been found for 50 years, largely due to poaching. Working in partnership with San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, The Nature Conservancy, and the Elewana Collection, Space for Giants has been working to achieve this huge milestone for conservation, with the relocation scheduled to occur in early 2024.

Visit spaceforgiants.org for more information.



Maurice Schutgens, Managing Director of Conservation, recollaring a bull elephant in Kenya

Conservation and Wildlife Protection

Here are some of the biggest gains you helped make possible in 2023

Gabon



Over 500 mobile electric fences were deployed across Gabon, improving food security for an estimated 4,724 subsistence farmers who now have their livelihoods protected from crop-raiding elephants. Read more about this on page 8.

The mobile electric fences performance at preventing human-elephant conflict has been excellent. Of the 436 interactions reported, 415 successfully drove back the elephants - a success rate of 95.2 percent.

To deploy the fences, we set up four mobile bases across the country, each comprising a team of four personnel including a team leader, a fence technician, a monitoring and evaluation expert and a driver.

We partnered with the London School of Economics on a social research methodology study to understand how we can deliver our projects more effectively. We are currently co-authoring a publication with the lead researcher.

To explore the potential of conservation investment in protected areas, Space for Giants conducted a mapping exercise of potential ecotourism investors, operators and brands, and the private travel company network.

We collaborated with Naturescapes and Conservation Capital to conduct a nature-based tourism assessment of the Congo Basin for the United States Agency for International Development-funded Forest and Biodiversity Support Activity project. This work will be concluded in 2024.

Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area

[KAZA, encompassing Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe]



An agreement was reached between Space for Giants, the Zambia Department of National Parks and the country's judiciary to allow us to collect data related to wildlife crime prosecutions. This enabled us to begin court monitoring activities in the second half of 2023, including monitoring four high-profile cases of wildlife crime in the Lusaka Magistrates Court. The cases are still pending, and the data collected will be captured in the next court monitoring report and Rapid Reference Guide (RRG).

To encourage collaboration, we strengthened key relationships with state and non-state agencies in the criminal justice systems throughout the KAZA region, including the British and U.S. embassies in Lusaka.

The wildlife justice team made headway in creating working relations with the KAZA Financial Intelligence Unit in dealing with perpetrators of illegal wildlife trade through capacity building of investigators. Our fundraising team also met with the Advocates for International Development team to discuss opportunities to fight wildlife crime.

In Zimbabwe, the team drafted an agreement with the National Prosecuting Authority to enable further collection of courtroom data from 2022 and 2023 and to build on our existing data resources.



What is EarthRanger?

Conservation Monitoring Coordinator Clarine Kigoli explains how tech is strengthening our work

Reflecting on Space for Giants' 2023 achievements fills me with immense pride. A highlight was our capacity-building initiatives, particularly in Laikipia in Kenya where we facilitated the implementation of EarthRanger for enhanced protected area management.

EarthRanger is a phone-based visualization tool used by rangers to record wildlife activity. It collects, integrates, and displays data and combines it with reports from the field to provide one unified view of wildlife, rangers, enforcement assets and infrastructure within a protected area. It generates monthly reports to help us make data-driven decisions.

In Uganda we facilitated the implementation of EarthRanger to address human-wildlife conflict, empowering over 450 rangers to utilize this technology. This enabled the expansion of the area under protection, elevating the rangers' work beyond existing boundaries and instilling in them a deep sense of pride.

Kenya



In 2023, the Space for Giants court monitoring team monitored activity on 71 wildlife crime cases in 18 court stations across the north and central regions. Of those, 26 were cases of interest as they involved significant wildlife trophies, government officials, factions of organized crime or repeat offenders. The largest seizure recorded was 37 pieces of elephant tusks weighing over 236 pounds.

The team noted a concerning increase in cases involving public service employees, personnel working in protected areas and repeat offenders. These concerns were raised with the director of Public Prosecutions, and we will continue to monitor them closely. We continued assisting the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) Case Progression Unit in drafting charge sheets and witness statements to ensure that cases resulted in convictions and asset recovery.

Kenya was the first country in which we installed electric fences to tackle human-elephant conflict, and we continue to regularly update the government on their maintenance and effectiveness and advise on the gaps that need to be closed. With our partner KWS, we conducted more than 20 fence patrols every month, both routine and in response to incidents.

One incident that was detected in Laikipia involved elephants stuck on the wrong side of the fence and the team physically moved them to the correct side to help secure the livelihoods of smallholder farmers. Space for Giants provides technical support for monitoring the fence, while building capacity on a working model of fence maintenance.

We continued to track the movement of our eight collared bull elephants, and the data showed that these animals continued to identify gaps and weaknesses in the fence in their attempt to crop raid. The issue of human-elephant conflict is not going away. In July we collaborated with KWS to replace the collars on four elephants, Tembea, Jikaze, Popote and Naledi, whose batteries were running low. The successful operation involved darting the animals to replace their tracking devices.

Sadly, we lost one of our collared elephants, Tumaini, to conflict. He was found with a spear wound in September, and despite the best efforts of KWS veterinarians to save his life, he did not make it.

Space for Giants collaborated in the careful preparation and planning to relocate 21 eastern black rhinos to a new sanctuary in Loisaba Conservancy. See page 13 for more information.

Visit spaceforgiants.org for more information.

Spotlight on Suyian

A unique ecosystem in the heart of Kenya's famous Laikipia Plateau

Suyian Conservancy is a spectacular and critical wildlife habitat of over 17,806 hectares (44,000 acres) that Space for Giants helped transition from private ownership into a Kenyan not-for-profit in 2022. The Conservancy employs 136 full-time staff to protect wildlife, manage the property and to provide social and economic benefits to surrounding communities.

In 2023 the Conservancy took a major step forward in achieving its conservation objectives through an exclusive partnership with travel company &Beyond, which will develop and operate high-end tourism facilities on the Conservancy. Tourism revenues will play an important role in helping to achieve financial sustainability for the newly established Conservancy and in turn will generate revenue for the county.

Suyian continues to invest in upgrading its infrastructure to improve operations, including habitat management and commercial livestock, and to enable the expansion of tourism. Space for Giants is working on finalizing a new strategic plan for the Conservancy that articulates the vision for this critical property in the broader landscape, and future ambitions of it becoming part of critically endangered black rhino habitat in the near future. Suyian has embarked on an ambitious goal that will see it transformed for the benefit of all of Kenya's citizens.



We covered

13,383 km²

(8316 miles) on vehicle patrols to keep wildlife safe

Mozambique



Space for Giants conducted a carbon workshop for the National Administration of Conservation Areas [ANAC] technicians on carbon credits, carbon finance and the voluntary carbon market in the capital city of Maputo. We presented proposed finance mechanisms for potential carbon projects for Marromeu National Reserve and the Primeiras e Segundas Environmental Protection Area, having already concluded pre-feasibility studies. We hope to have an update on this in early 2024.

We signed a new agreement with ANAC in June to provide them with technical support in developing a sustainable wildlife-based economy. We also attended various conferences, including carbon workshops and the Southern African Development Community Trans-frontier Conservation Areas annual meeting, to further develop stakeholder engagement with local foundations, donor partners, NGOs and private sector companies to explore potential collaborations and fundraising opportunities.

Rwanda



Through collaboration with authorities, including the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) and National Public Prosecution Authority, Space for Giants developed a new set of regulations based on our earlier review of wildlife crime offenses. A key recommendation was enacting a protected area management law, which was taken up by RDB and resulted in enacting the National Parks and Nature Reserve law in February 2023. Through this, the development of a Rapid Response Guide and enhanced training, Rwanda is primed to have the tools to combat illegal wildlife crime incidences.

South Sudan



Space for Giants achieved remarkable milestones in advancing South Sudan's wildlife justice system. South Sudan is at a key developmental stage for their legal frameworks, as they make the legislative transition from Islamic law to common law. Following a gap analysis legal review of the current legislation on wildlife offenses, we worked with the South Sudan Ministry of Justice, the Director of the Public Prosecutions Office, officers from the Law Reform Commission, investigators and wildlife officers to draft and review the South Sudan National Prosecution Policy and the Mutual Legal Assistance Law.

The country's inaugural Rapid Response Guide, National Prosecution Policy and the Mutual Legal Assistance Law were produced. The latter enables Space for Giants to continue developing a mutual legal assistance (MLA) regional guide. This will serve as a critical toolkit for investigators, prosecutors and judicial officers in improving their understanding of the process involved in making, processing and coordinating MLA and extradition requests.

Tanzania



In 2023, Tanzania became the twelfth African country in which Space for Giants operates. We launched the second edition of the Rapid Response Guide on wildlife and forestry crimes and the inaugural edition of one relating to fishery crimes. In November, we delivered training programs with our partners United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Tanzanian National Prosecution Service in Dar es Salaam and Arusha. Ten more training sessions are planned for 2024.

We continued to work to develop a nature-based carbon project on Luganzo Game Reserve, and negotiations are continuing with Tanzania National Parks to select a number of landscapes for inclusion in the carbon market financing.





Uganda



Space for Giants trained 60 Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) staff from seven conservation areas in fence construction, community wildlife scout skills, and in how to use EarthRanger and ArcGIS wildlife monitoring software.

We established a network of EarthRanger instances which includes a standardized model for recording and visualizing incidents of human-wildlife conflict. To assist UWA rangers collect data we procured 138 phones for this purpose. Data collection began in August 2023 and is ongoing, and the generated reports will assist in prioritizing responses to human-wildlife conflict and developing mitigation strategies.

In the Queen Elizabeth Conservation Area we carried out a human-elephant conflict impact study along a 13-mile electric fence line, which was constructed in 2020. It highlighted transformational impacts on poverty reduction in the area thanks to the fence.

An agreement was reached between the UWA and the Uganda Investment Authority (UIA) to help provide an accelerated process for high-value investment in Uganda's network of protected areas as a mechanism for funding protections of the natural areas. Space for Giants conducted a mapping exercise of potential regional and local ecotourism investors, operators and brands, and secured their engagement for a new round of investments.

A preliminary ecotourism investment prospectus for Pian Upe Wildlife Reserve was produced and we are engaging potential investors and operators (read more on page 6).

We worked with the UWA and the Uganda Tourism Board to conduct analysis of sustainable gorilla tourism opportunities that would help secure the species' future. Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park and Mgahinga Gorilla National Park in southwest Uganda are home to an estimated 470 endangered mountain gorillas. Space for Giants' recommendations from our report were implemented in 2023, including setting up an international media group to publicize gorilla tourism and planning for further feasibility assessments for conservation tourism initiatives.



Wildlife Crime: The Fight Continues



Faith Maina
Wildlife Legal Officer

Illicit funds continue to fuel wildlife crime and enable corruption across Africa. Although conviction rates for wildlife crime cases are increasing (for example, 99 percent in Uganda from a specialized wildlife court), existing legislation that could be used to recover assets from wildlife crime cases are seldom used, due to a lack of full understanding among investigators and prosecutors of how to adequately use them in this specific context.

Organized criminals are not deterred by existing fines, but the recovery of their assets would affect their ability to continue operating. To combat this, Space for Giants is working hard to increase understanding in the judiciary systems in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and South Sudan about asset recovery and corruption charges brought against organized crime syndicates.



A leopard in north central Kenya

Our Funders

We are deeply grateful to everyone who shares our commitment to the protection of the natural ecosystems on which Africa's last populations of large wild animals depend. The support of our donors allows us to continually innovate, adapt to changing realities, and be bold in pursuing our conservation goals. We recognize the following strategic funders who supported our work in 2023. Thank you.

Matthew Michelson Family Fund

Wes Carter - KA Foundation

Anders and Anne Holch Povlsen - Heartland Foundation

The Children's Investment Fund Foundation

Sally Ranney

Chantecaille Beaute

Edna Patricia Nutbrown

Smiling Rocks

Heidi Roddenberry - The Roddenberry Foundation

David Ryan

**Laurie and John McBride - Aspen Business Center
Foundation**

Elephant Cooperation

Joan Leatherbury

Louis Bacon

Chelsea Congdon - The Denver Foundation

Ian Webster

Beth Swofford

Craig Caukin

Barbara Hager

Catherine Dewey - Dewey Charitable Trust

Kids Against Animal Poaching

Laurel Mader and James Knight

Greg Powell

Tracey Powell

Todd and Emma Goergen - The Goergen Foundation

Nicole Honegger - JM Wildlife Foundation

Nicole Honegger - Leopardess Foundation

**Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
(DEFRA UK)**

Chemonics

Assala Upstream Gabon S.A.

Total Energies

Perenco

Maurel & Prom

Shelley and Frank Litvack



Thank You

Your support makes all the difference.

Together, we can secure a brighter future for wildlife and people. We welcome the opportunity to discuss how you can support our work.

Get in touch via info@spaceforgiants.org

- 🐘 Make a donation online via credit card, check, or cryptocurrency.
- 🐘 Become a corporate partner.
- 🐘 Become a member of the Herd through a regular gift.
- 🐘 Donate via bank transfer, stock or Individual Retirement Account (IRA).
- 🐘 Name Space for Giants in your will or estate plan and leave a perpetual legacy across Africa's biodiverse landscapes.
- 🐘 Become a Giants Club member with a leadership gift. The Giants Club forges real political, financial, and technical muscle to behind our mission. Members work with the Space for Giants team on a bespoke pathway to support our conservation goals and are invited to an annual dinner and a regular summits bringing together heads of state, business leaders, and conservation philanthropists.

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For further information please contact Space for Giants at
info@spaceforgiants.org



Space for Giants has been certified carbon neutral