

# AFRICA FOREST PROGRAM



CONSERVATION  
INTERNATIONAL

Africa



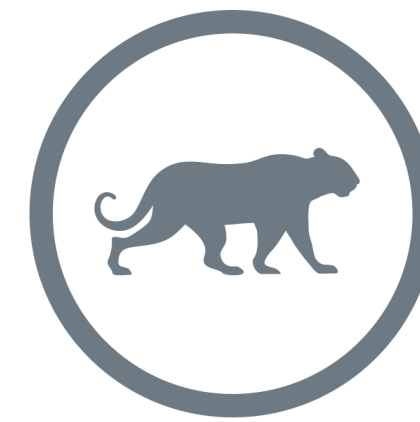
## WHAT'S AT STAKE



### CLIMATE

Race to limit global temperatures to **1.5 degrees Celsius** to avoid the worst climate change impacts. Urgent need to cut emissions and enhance global carbon sinks.

**Necessity to adapt to heightening climate impacts** (droughts, floods) with Africa worst affected.



### BIODIVERSITY

Global urgency to halt and reverse **biodiversity loss** with 1 million plant and animal species facing extinction. Many of these are in Africa. Safeguarding integrity and health of habitats vital.



### PLANET-POSITIVE

Priority to reduce **extreme poverty**, with two-thirds of the global population living in extreme poverty in Africa — a figure that could climb to 88% by 2030. COVID-19 has exacerbated this. Pressing need for planet-positive socioeconomic development.



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AFRICA NEEDS FORESTS

# AFRICA'S FORESTS: A VITAL SOLUTION

Africa is home to a fifth of the world's tropical forests and mangroves, including the planet's second largest tropical forests in the Congo Basin. Conservation, restoration and sustainable use of these forests would deliver strong and positive outcomes for the global climate, biodiversity and planet-positive economies.



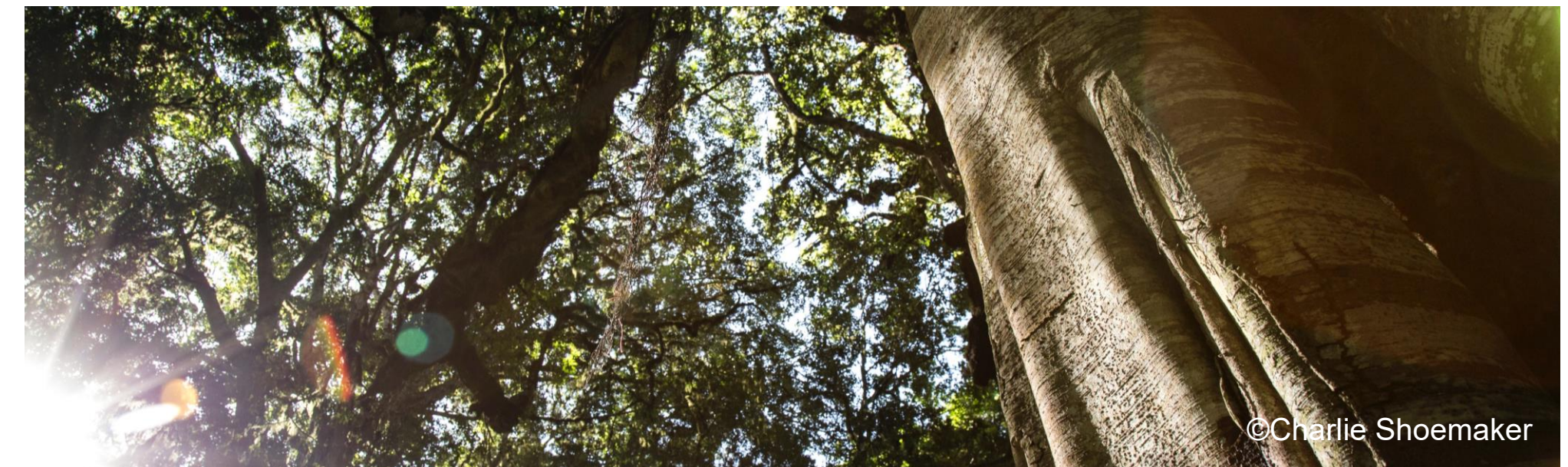


# AFRICA'S FORESTS & CLIMATE



## CARBON STORAGE

- Congo Basin forests and peatlands, and Niger delta mangroves among places with the **highest concentrations of 'irrecoverable carbon'** critical to global climate stability.
- Central Africa's peatlands hold an estimated **30 billion tonnes of carbon**, or 20 years of US fossil fuel emissions.
- West Africa's Upper Guinean forests estimated to have **higher carbon densities per hectare** than Amazon forests.



## CLIMATE ADAPTATION

- Africa projected to **disproportionately suffer heightening climate-related disasters** ( floods, droughts, sea level rise, storms).
- Intact and well managed forests will **cushion vulnerable communities**, biodiversity and economies from worsening climate shocks.

AFRICA NEEDS FORESTS

# AFRICA'S FORESTS & PLANET-POSITIVE ECONOMIES

Forests support wildlife-based and travel related economies



Well managed forests support sustainable, forestry and related economies



Non-Timber Forest Products (fruits, nuts, medicines) provide income to forest-adjacent communities



AFRICA NEEDS FORESTS

# AFRICA'S FORESTS & BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Africa's forests host **one of the largest concentrations of biodiversity** that play a vital role in maintaining and enhancing the health of ecosystems that underpin human wellbeing. With habitat loss the main driver of species loss, conserving these forests means protecting globally important species, many of which are found nowhere else.

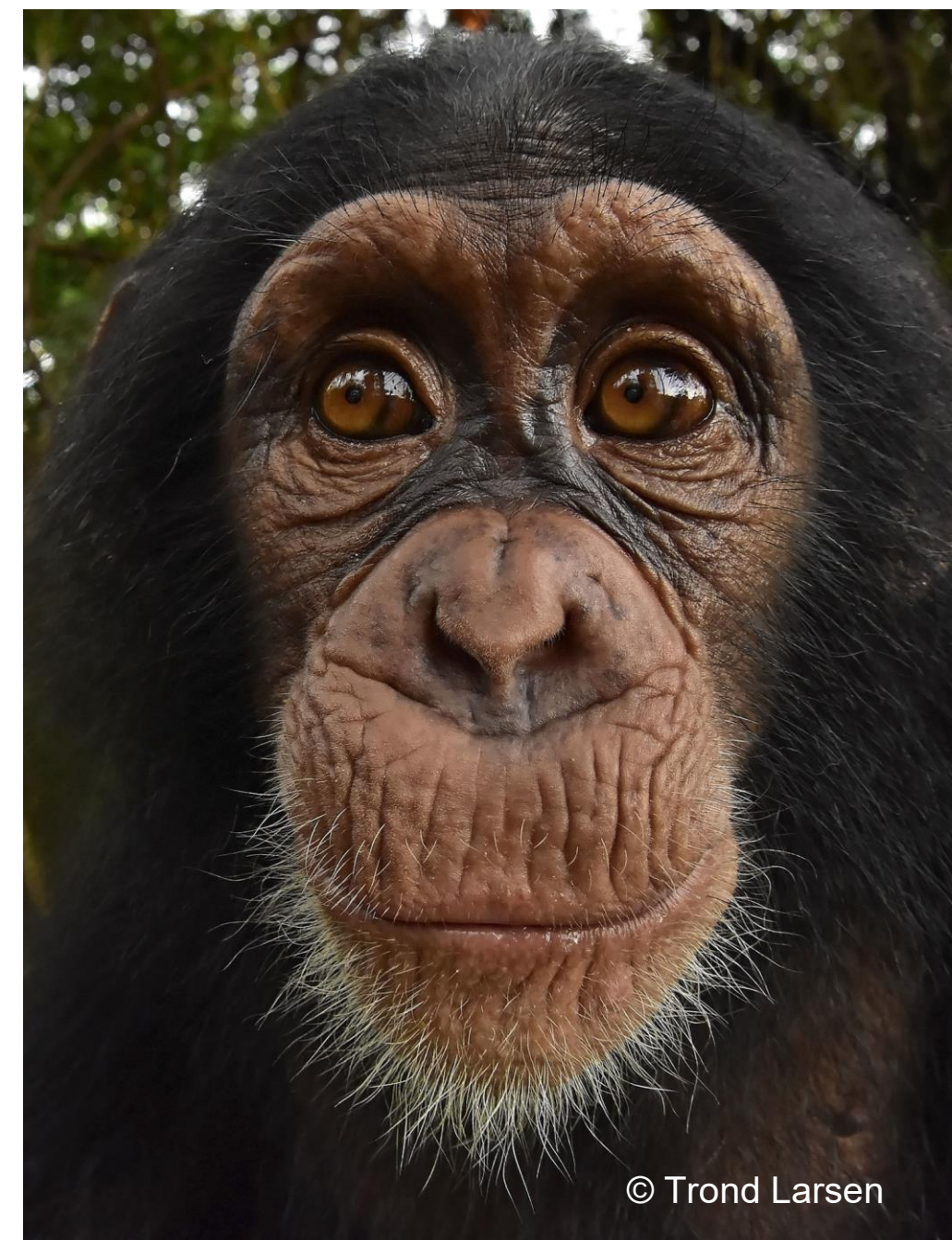
## Africa Forest Elephant

Status: Critically Endangered



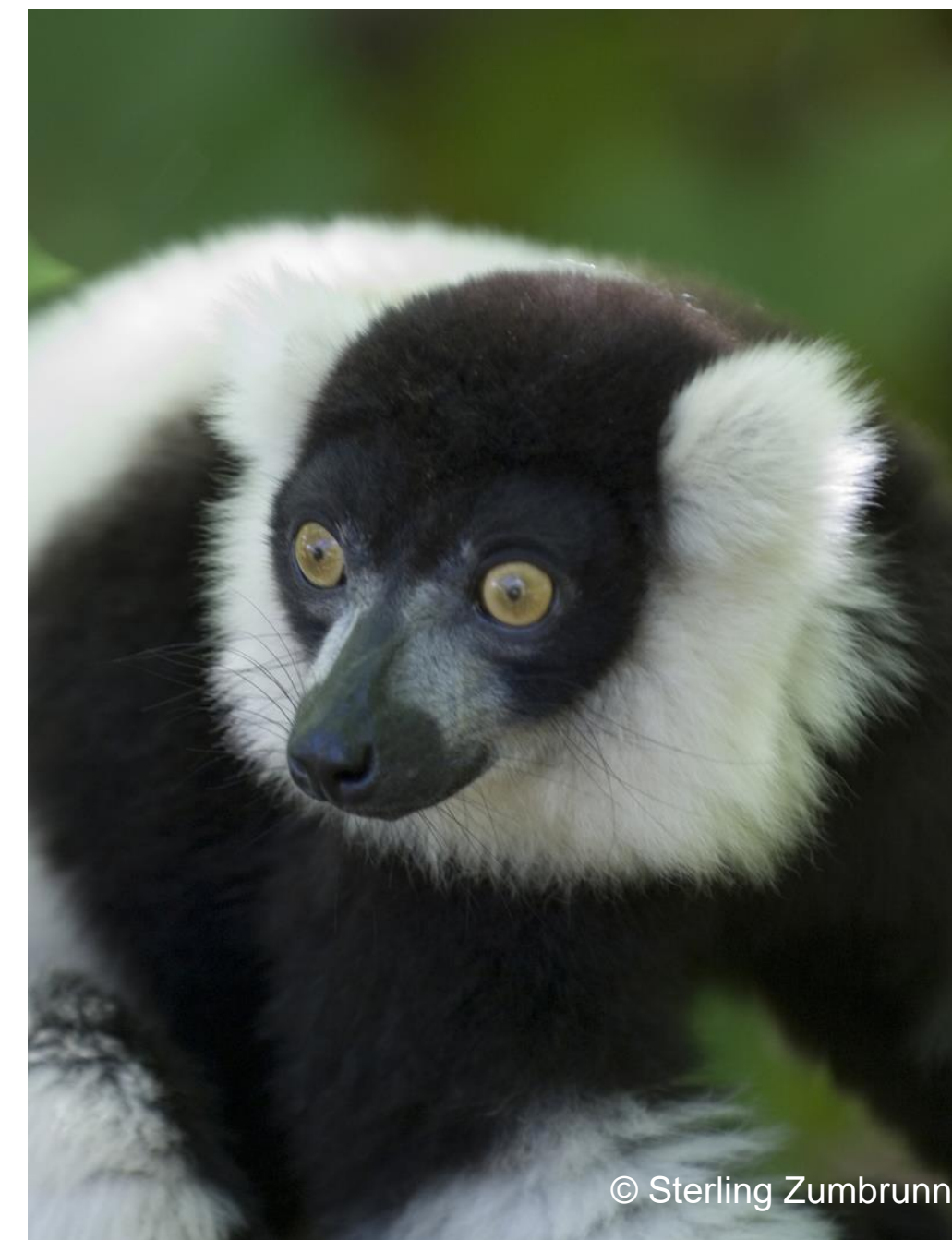
## Western Chimpanzee

Status: Critically Endangered



## Lemur

Status: Critically Endangered



## Mountain Gorillas

Status: Endangered





## KEY TRENDS

1

Africa loses **the highest amount of forests annually** (4 million hectares) due to logging, agricultural expansion, and reliance on wood-based fuels.

2

Two African countries ( D.R. Congo & Cameroon) among 10 **countries with the highest forest loss in 2021**

3

Growing population, poverty and high nature-dependency means **pressure on Africa's forests is bound to heighten** and effective action is needed.

4

African countries increasingly **appreciating the economic, climate and biodiversity value** of forest conservation and sustainable management.

5

Gabon among countries with **the lowest deforestation rates** globally, indicating halting and reversing forest loss in Africa is possible.

# OUR AFRICA FOREST PROGRAM

## KEY TARGETS



**Conserve 3.8 M ha of carbon & biodiversity-rich forests**



**Absorb and store 0.43 Gigatons of CO<sub>2</sub> by 2030**



**3 countries + Congo Basin (planned)**



## WHAT WE DO



**Championing sustainable agriculture** to stem forest loss due to slash and burn farming and commercial commodities.



**Restoration of degraded forests** via reforestation or natural regeneration to recover ecosystem function and connectivity.



**Creating incentives for forest conservation** such as support for jobs, enterprises, education, and health for communities via conservation agreements.



**Enhancing forest protection** through creation and strengthening of management and financing of protected areas.



**Mobilizing funding for forest protection** including carbon markets, trust funds, public and private donors.



**Delivering the science and policy support** to value and conserve forests.



# KEY PROJECTS

COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	DONOR	DURATION
<b>Liberia</b>	Reducing Deforestation from Palm Oil and Cocoa Value chains	\$74.3 million	Global Environment Facility (GEF)	2022-2027
	Natural Capital Accounting (NCA)	\$15.2 million	GEF	XX
<b>Madagascar</b>	Sustainable Landscapes of Eastern Madagascar	\$19.3 million	Green Climate Fund	XX
	Conservation and Sustainable use of Biological Diversity in Boeny Region	\$16.6 million	GEF	XX
	Priceless Planet Coalition	XX	Mastercard	XX
<b>Kenya</b>	Chyulu Hills Carbon Project	XX	Corporates	2017-2047
	REDD+ Nesting	\$2 million	UK PACT	2022-2025

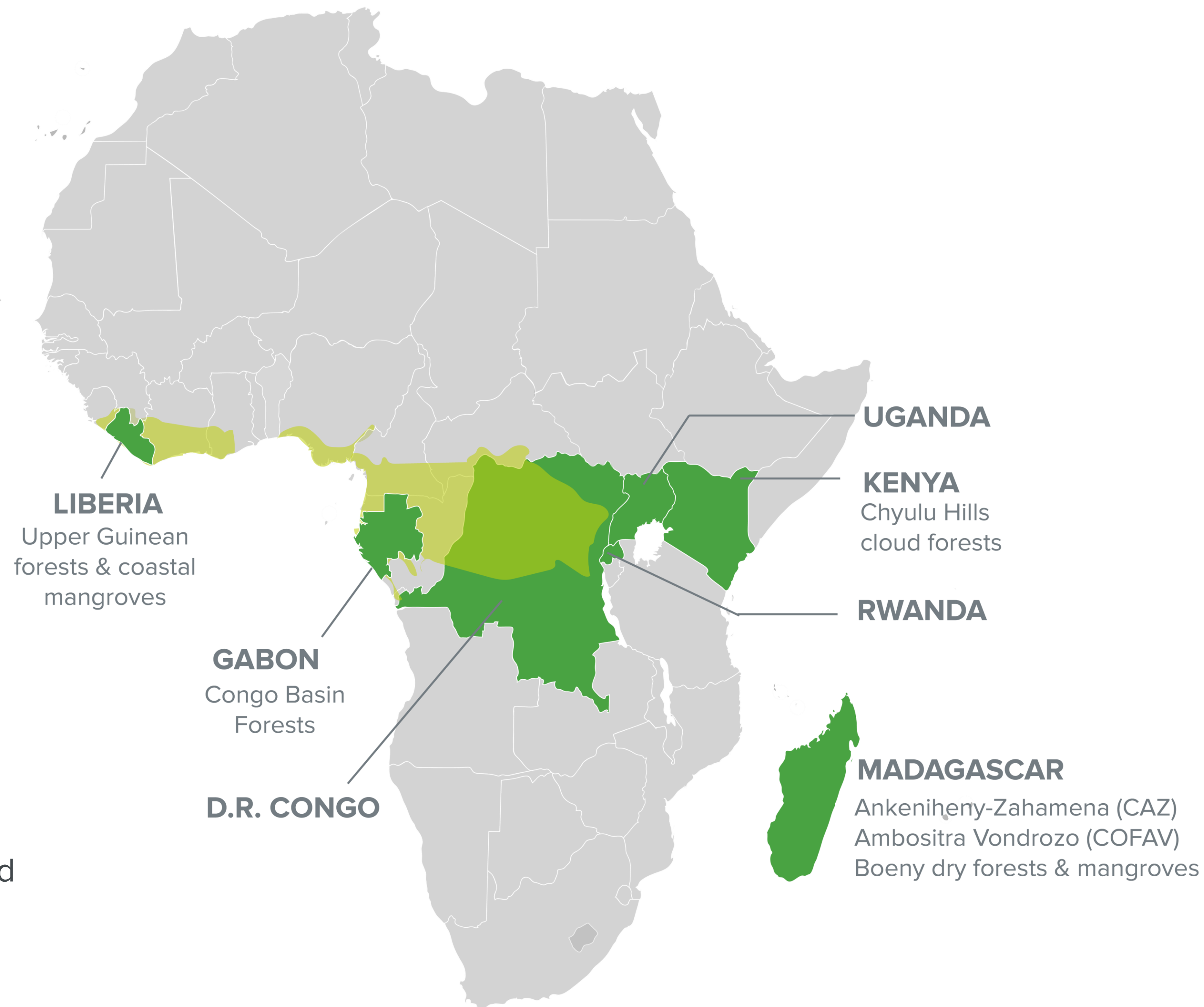


## AFRICA NEEDS FORESTS

# WHERE WE WORK

### AND WHY THESE PLACES MATTER

- Forests with some of the **highest carbon stocks** globally.
- Habitats for **biodiversity threatened with extinction** (forest elephants, Western Chimpanzees, Lemurs, Mountain gorillas).
- Last-remaining forest-areas that are **most threatened** by unsustainable human activities.
- Home to Indigenous and local communities with **high poverty rates**.
- Areas where people have the **highest dependence on forests** for basic needs.
- **Critical sources of freshwater** for agriculture and nature-positive economies.



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



Developed the first high-resolution maps revealing **the most carbon-rich forests** in Africa and beyond to guide conservation efforts.



Together with partners, created **Kenya's largest carbon project** protecting vital cloud forests



Supported **tripling of Madagascar's Protected Area network** to secure last-remaining forests



Set up **trust funds** supporting 7 million ha of forest-rich Protected Areas in Africa in perpetuity.

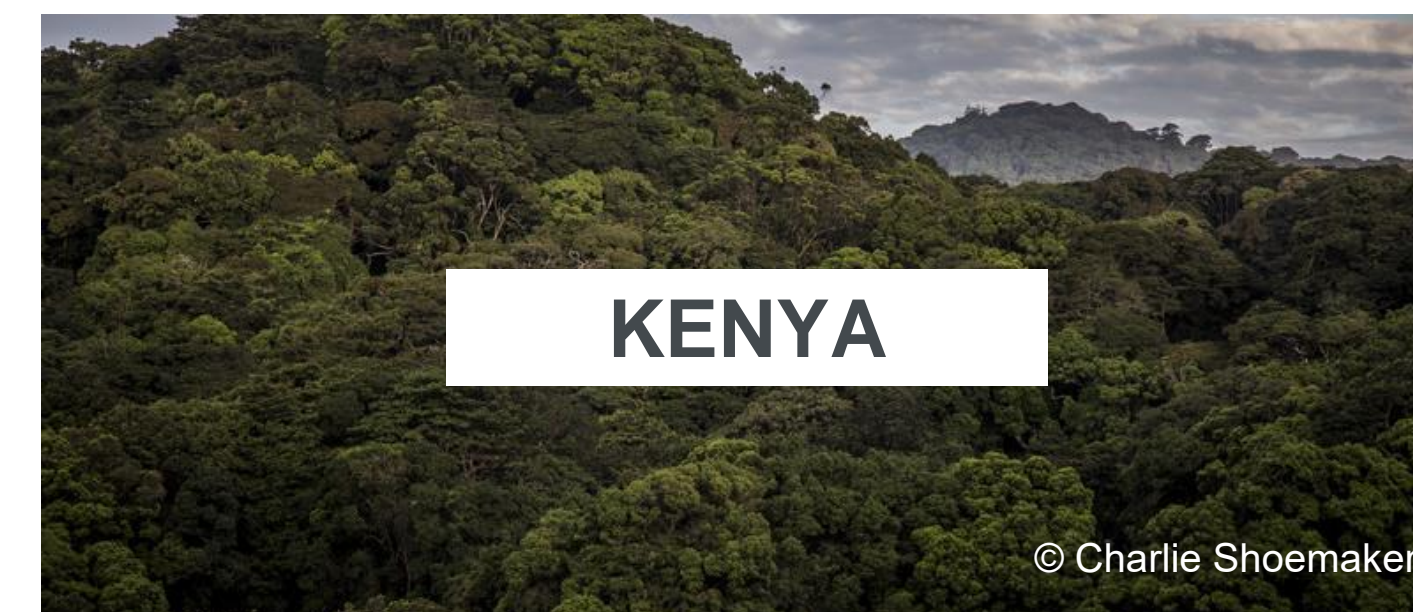


Introduced **Conservation Agreements model** that's protecting key forests in Liberia.



Deployed the **first satellite-based alert system** for fires & deforestation in Madagascar to cur forest loss.

# PRIORITIES FOR SCALING IMPACT



- Develop the **first comprehensive land-use plans** to protect 2.5 M ha of West Africa's largest remaining forest blocks.
- Support **gazettement of a 25,000-hectare protected area** to conserve mangrove-rich Marshall wetlands.
- **Develop the first mangrove account**, quantifying the benefits of mangroves to the economy.

- **Lower deforestation rates further** in within the last-remaining tropical forests. 2021 rates lowest since 2008.
- **Reduce slash and burn farming** around forest areas via enhanced investments in sustainable, climate-smart agriculture.

- **Support Kenya to effectively implement REDD+** and mobilize climate finance to protect and restore forests.
- **Mobilize funding from the carbon markets** to protect and restore the Chyulu Hills cloud forests and its biodiversity, and support livelihoods of Indigenous and local communities.

# PRIORITIES FOR SCALING IMPACT



CONGO BASIN

- Restart work to protect forests and improve livelihoods, initially starting with Gabon and expanding to other Congo Basin countries.
- Enhance awareness about the economic, climate and biodiversity value of conserving the Congo Basin forests.



CENTRAL AFRICA

- Protect further losses of mountain gorilla forest habitats in Rwanda, Uganda and Democratic Republic of Congo from unsustainable infrastructure projects.



AFRICA-WIDE

- Establish an African Forests Community of Practice to enhance collaborations & lesson sharing to advance forest management.
- Support African governments to integrate forest conservation and restoration in climate, biodiversity and economic policies.



# MEET THE TEAM



**Valentine Eboa**  
Africa Restoration  
Director



**Bjorn Stauch**  
Vice President  
Conservation Finance  
Africa



**Robert McNeil**  
Senior Director  
Program Delivery  
Africa



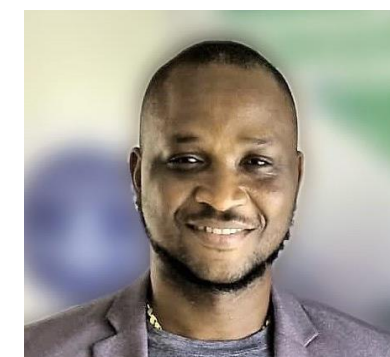
**Sahondra  
Rajoelina**  
Vice President &  
Country Director  
Madagascar



**Jessica Donovan**  
Senior Director  
Development and  
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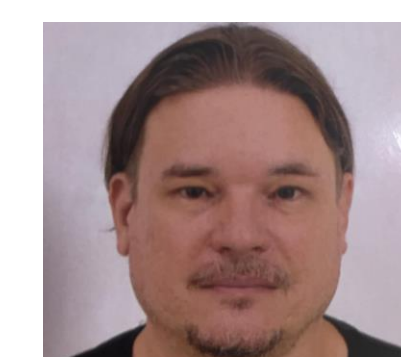
**Daudi Sumba**  
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Kenya



**Peter Mulbah**  
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Liberia



**Patrick Colas**  
Senior Director  
Carbon Team



**Matthew Lewis**  
Regional Director  
Conservation Impact

# PARTNERS



gaborone declaration  
for sustainability  
in africa







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INTERNATIONAL**

**Africa**

