



Partners4Nature

 PEACE PARKS™
FOUNDATION

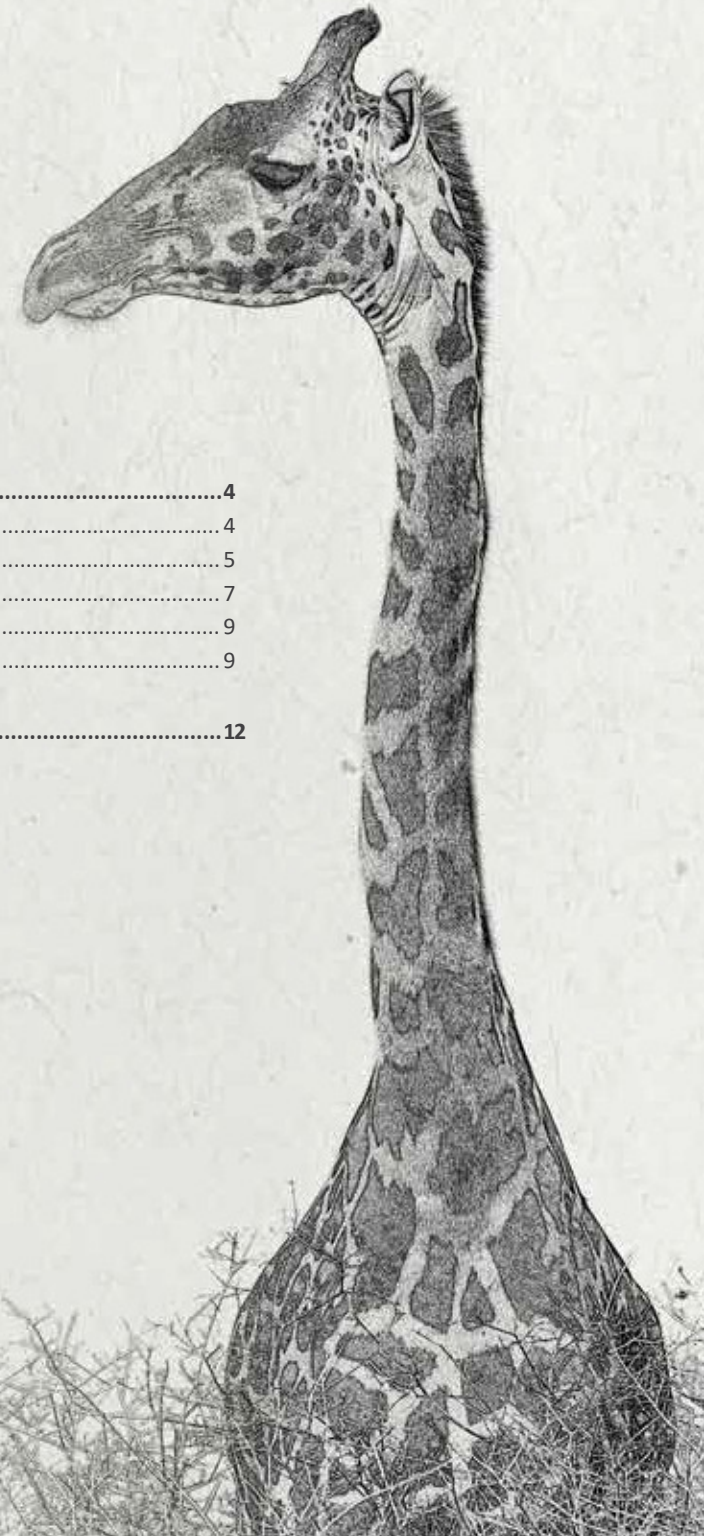


PARTNERS4NATURE

INFORMATION PACK

CONTENTS

I. PARTNERS4NATURE	4
Executive summary.....	4
Why do we need a fund?.....	5
Theory of change.....	7
Funding goals.....	9
Fund governance and management.....	9
II. PEACE PARKS FOUNDATION STRATEGY 2030 AND VISION 2050	12



I. PARTNERS4NATURE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Southern Africa faces significant demographic and climate challenges, and time is running out fast. Peace Parks Foundation's Strategy 2030 offers critical solutions and outlines a comprehensive Vision 2050 to lessen the anticipated impacts and ensure resilience.

Peace Parks is dedicated to large-scale conservation efforts. The 2030 Strategy, as approved by the Board in November 2022, revolves around the strategic objective to secure 675,000 km² of transboundary landscapes in Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zambia – i.e. Great Limpopo, Lubombo, Kavango Zambezi, Malawi-Zambia and Lower Zambezi – Mana Pools transboundary landscapes. To achieve this objective, Peace Parks will focus on ten protected areas measuring 57,000 km², plus seven key ecological corridors measuring 37,000 km² within these massive landscapes. By impacting these strategically located protected areas and linkages we escalate our footprint to the entirety of these transboundary landscapes.

The landscape-level Partners4Nature approach is based on deploying funding to address the multifaceted landscape needs, embrace opportunities and confront challenges timeously. Peace Parks' work with communities as stewards of the forests and often the last stronghold at the frontlines of nature conservation, is conditional to lasting conservation impact at scale. When given a proper choice, communities will not destroy the nature on which their very livelihoods depend.

Building resilience through investment and growth of successful models is key. However, relying solely on project-based funding is limiting, especially when operating at a large scale where agility and responsiveness are critical. The Peace Parks landscape-level approach creates a multiplier effect through smartly developing a mosaic of governance models, land uses and revenue streams that are reinvested in environmental protection, which in turn bolsters the natural resources that support commercial production and wildlife economy income. This approach increases the velocity of money within the region and directly and indirectly expands revenues going into the landscape. Many catalytic investments are needed to create the positive change that ultimately leads to *tipping points* at the landscape level. And with that, the effective protection of the world's largest elephant, rhino, lion, and wild dog populations is ensured.

A funding scenario, which includes accelerated implementation of the Peace Parks strategy and a higher level of impact is costed at USD426m over seven years and includes a shortfall of USD 216m. This shortfall includes a target of USD60m in landscape level funding pursued for the Partners4Nature Fund.

Peace Parks' funding model is based on project finance (79% of total income), most of this being highly restricted and short-term funding, resulting in pockets of funded activities within large landscapes. The current funding model does not enable the implementation of the landscape-level approach as defined in Strategy 2030. Singular project investments in the landscape will not necessarily create synergies, or get to scale by themselves. Collapse of successful model projects is very feasible after project funding has ended when unforeseen challenges erode the model over time. Relying on project-based funding creates systemic constraints. The project-by-project approach limits flexibility, disrupts continuity, and hinders proactive responses to emerging opportunities as well as challenges. The lengthy and uncertain process of securing funding for each project significantly reduces our ability to achieve the scale of impact required at the landscape level. The creation of the Partners4Nature Fund is proposed to complement project funding with the landscape-level funding needed to implement Strategy 2030 successfully and at an expedited pace. Partners4Nature invites partners of Peace Parks to annually contribute USD 1 million for the next ten years, thus USD 10 million, to realise USD 80-100 million of flexible funding over the next decade.

The Fund was launched when the first four donors signed up in July 2024, with the aspiration of growing it to at least ten donor partners, who will then meet annually to obtain a first-hand update on the progress made, preferably in situ in one of the peace parks. Partners4Nature is a pooled, Donor Advised Fund held by Peace Parks Foundation NPC in a dedicated account.

To attract implementation partners on the ground, at least 30% of the annual proceeds will be allocated to external parties to join hands with Peace Parks on a fund matching basis. The landscapes where Peace Parks implements its turnaround strategies are vast, and the organisation cannot achieve its goals alone. By allocating one-third of the Partner4Nature funding to partners, Peace Parks can leverage their implementation capacity, expertise, skills, and co-funding. At the same time, we will actively support our partners on the ground, accelerating our collaborative approach and strengthening the impact of our partnerships.

The Fund will aim to build local southern African capacity of a broad range of partners by catalysing, funding, and incentivising **partnerships in transboundary landscapes to scale our footprint** over the next decade. The Fund has the potential to change the dynamic in landscapes vis-a-vis communities, governments, and partners. It is a value multiplier that will attract new partners that are currently not yet present in the landscape, such as development partners, NGOs, private sector partners, think tanks, universities and the like, which will bring much-needed expertise and implementation capacity to achieve impact at scale.

Peace Parks, as a local organisation with a 27-year track record, is perfectly positioned to champion this approach. We propose to:

Secure the core Key protected areas that serve as critical ecological anchors in transboundary landscapes continue to show improved management. This progress has been enabled by bridge funding, which helped fill operational gaps and align previously non-synchronized funding cycles—providing the necessary time to develop long-term financing mechanisms.

We won't do it alone Catalytic funding has effectively incentivized partnerships, unlocking additional implementation capacity, expanding access to a wide range of expertise, and attracting complementary co-financing.

Connect the dots Expanded conservation footprint through: (a) ensuring the sustainability of investments over time; (b) scaling and connecting fragmented efforts across the landscape; and (c) timely repores to community development needs - critical for long-term success.

Dare to try, dare to fail A portfolio of large-scale, landscape-level conservation finance instruments has been developed and brought to market, successfully crowding in investment and enabling systemic, long-term conservation outcomes.

And evolve by design Decision-making for P4N and its broad network of partners is driven by high-quality processed data and organizational learning, supported by an advanced Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning system that transforms data into actionable insights.

WHY DO WE NEED A FUND?

The need for partnerships has never been more urgent. In 2022, at the UN Climate Change meeting in Sharm El-Sheikh, the Chair pleaded that winning the climate resilience battle requires a *radical and unprecedented level of collaboration* from all corners of the world. It is the only solution that will get us to the scale and level of impact that is worthy of the challenges we face.

Peace Parks is a professional, values-driven organisation that is proud of its 28-year track record of impact. Its achievements are of global importance, accomplished under the most challenging circumstances. Peace Parks' impacts on the ground are a glimmer of *hope* and an *inspiration* to the many who want to leave a better world for future generations.

Implementing Peace Parks' 2050 Vision implies working at a large and transboundary landscape scale. This scale is required to face the challenges brought on by climate change, accelerated population growth, fragility, conflict, and violence. The compounding effect of the impacts of climate change is already affecting people and putting additional pressure on nature in the transboundary landscapes. Work at a landscape level is dynamic in terms of addressing challenges and embracing opportunities. It is complex and requires the management of many variables and ever-changing circumstances simultaneously.

Peace Parks' current funding model is based on project finance. Project finance is of crucial importance, and it will continue to be the largest funding source supporting Peace Parks' activities. However, the funding model does not enable all facets of a landscape-level approach, nor does it provide the flexibility needed to mitigate threats timeously, effectively and adequately to take advantage of opportunities. Project finance creates pockets of funded activities in large landscapes. In general, because of its restrictive nature, the funding cannot address the ever-changing dynamics and needs in a landscape. It often does not allow for flexibility to adapt to rapidly changing realities on the ground. The limited timeframes often focus on short term results and not on creating long-term enabling conditions for success. Sometimes projects have exceptionally good outcomes or teach us incredibly valuable lessons. Unfortunately, due to the restrictive nature of project-based funding, initiatives often conclude after just two to four years. This limited timeframe rarely allows for meaningful expansion, scaling, or the creation of synergies with other investments.

Funding that can be readily and strategically deployed to address multifaceted needs, support a long-term vision, embrace opportunities, and tackle emergencies and challenges within a landscape will have a catalytic effect in realising the implementation of the Strategy 2030 – Vision 2050. Numerous catalytic investments are needed to create positive change that ultimately leads to *tipping points* at the landscape level.

The landscapes where Peace Parks works are vast and present a myriad of challenges, but our Vision 2050 is solid and builds on 28 years of implementation experience in that same environment. Peace Parks concluded that one way to scale at an accelerated pace is by being enabled to strategically deploy funds, by creating a wide range of effective partnerships and by building robust governance models. Partners4Nature is built on four main pillars, each of which is fully aligned with Peace Parks' core competencies and expertise and is supported by up-to-date strategies.

Partners4Nature is dedicated to the following:

1. Securing the landscape core: foundational ecological anchors

Protected areas serve as biodiversity anchors in the landscape. Without these foundational anchors, there is no basis for working at scale by establishing ecological connectivity. Protected areas need a steady flow of financing for Capex and Opex expenses. While the Fund seeks to incentivise partnerships that can help solve the long-term finance needs of these areas, bridge funding may be required.

2. Attracting partners to our landscapes

In some of our landscapes, Peace Parks is the only development actor. Here, the Fund will enable attracting implementation capacity and expertise by inviting a broad range of development partners to join us in co-creating a development vision grounded in conservation, together with all local stakeholders.

When engaging with communities in consultation processes, one must follow through quickly with actions. Consultations invariably create expectations and long periods between consultations and implementation erode trust and may even negatively affect the target of securing seven functional ecological corridors by 2030. Timeous deployment of seed funding to preserve the trust that has been built significantly enhances the effectiveness of stakeholder engagement.

3. Connecting the dots in a landscape

We run the risk of pilot projects remaining pilots. Sometimes successes are not sustained because funding horizons are too short, or there is a lack of attention to what is needed to create behavioural changes at scale. Connecting and amplifying successful activities will lead to efficiency and will create robustness and sustainability of impactful models

4. Crowd-in private sector finance

Dare to try, dare to fail, stimulate innovation, and take risks. NGOs are often told to operate more like a business, yet the risk appetite of most funders does not reflect this. Creating a safe space for innovation and learning in the conservation finance realm will further refine our role and deepen our experience in creating innovative finance mechanisms with the potential to scale. Private sector partners are often more motivated to engage when NGO partners can contribute financially, demonstrating a "pay-to-play" commitment that signals seriousness and shared investment.

5. Learn and evolve by design

We are pressed for time. We need to evolve by design by creating a learning organisation that has internalised a culture of measuring results, reflecting on its failures and successes, and then deploying double loop and triple loop learning. We have built a state-of-the-art MEL system, a first of its kind in Africa. This needs to be sustained and deployed widely, ensuring that it benefits *everyone* in the landscapes including our partners, governments, and communities to eventually support global discourses on nature-based solutions.

There are many benefits to creating a fund structure. In summary, the Partners4Nature fund:

- Is designed to guide investment based on a well-defined results framework to effectively impact landscapes and create long-term resilience. It provides flexible funding to be strategically deployed alongside project funding.
- Will considerably accelerate efforts for Peace Parks to achieve the 2030 landscape-level targets.
- Will be catalytic in creating partnerships and bringing additional partners and expertise on board.
- Will be an effective tool to leverage and crowd-in additional funding.
- Better positions Peace Parks to negotiate more robust governance models.

- Enables funding continuity and stability, for instance, by providing bridge funding when one project ends and new funding is still being secured.
- Is an instrument to facilitate receiving funding at scale.
- Leverages funding from existing donors, which may attract new funders.
- Will become a brand that facilitates marketing of successes around this new and unique African initiative.
- With this fund, Peace Park is placed in a significantly better position than without it.

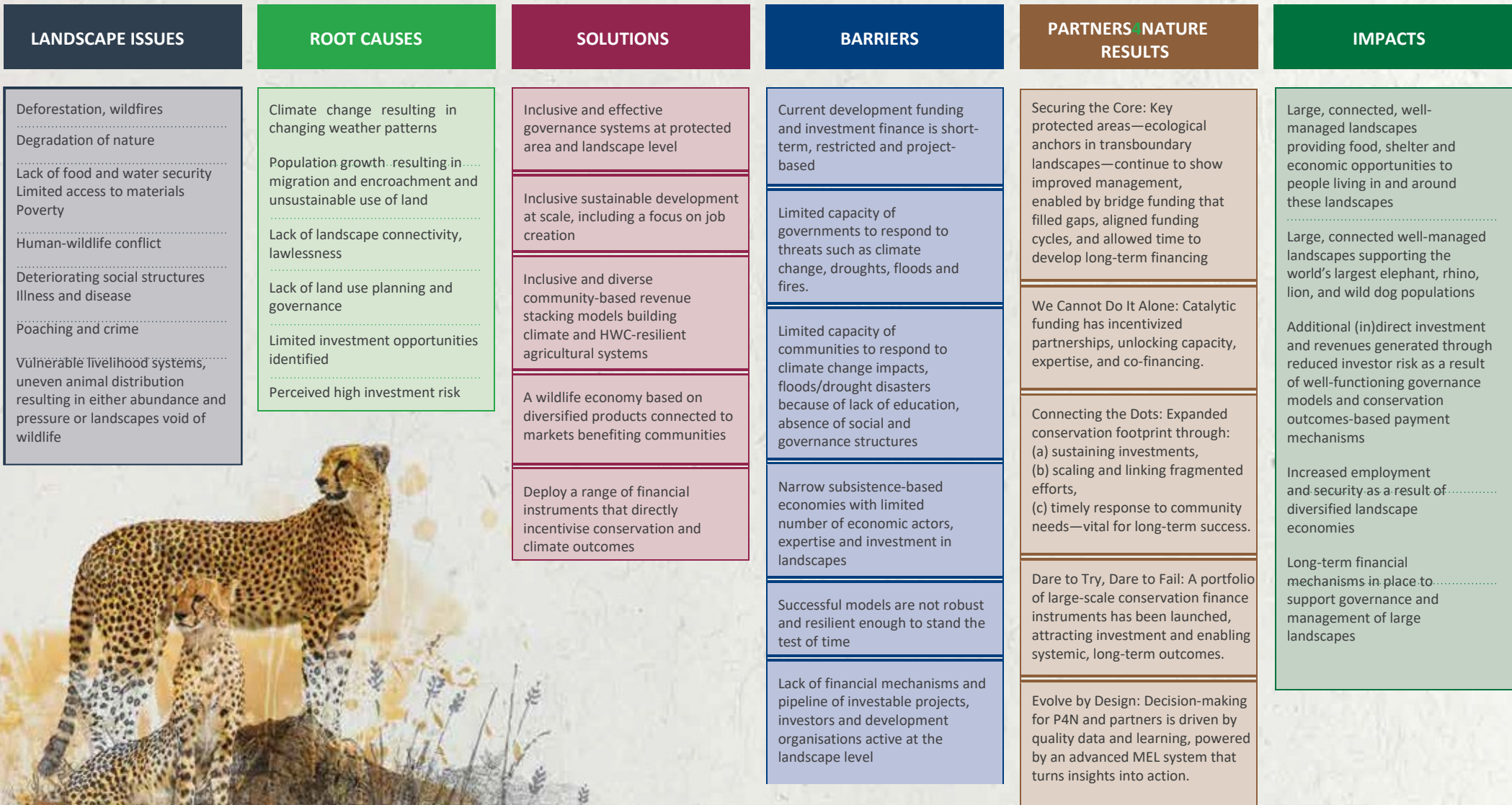
THEORY OF CHANGE

Partners4Nature's goals and targets are aligned with the Peace Parks Vision 2050 – Strategy 2030. Its focus on co-creation, co-management and building local capacity will increase the longevity of its investments. The fund will provide landscape-level finance that is complementary and additional to the current project portfolio financed by project grants.

A theory of change was developed for the five transboundary landscapes, presenting landscape-level issues, root causes, potential solutions and the barriers towards implementing those solutions. It also reflects exactly what Partners4Nature will address in this approach and what its aspired impacts are.



THEORY OF CHANGE



PARTNERS4NATURE FUNDING GOALS

The Partners4Nature Fund was launched in July 2024 with an initial commitment of USD 40 million over ten years, secured through four founding donors who know our work well, believe in our approach, and recognise the urgent need for a fund like Partners4Nature. Each donor committed USD 1 million annually for a decade.

All contributions are pooled and managed by Peace Parks Foundation NPC. The Fund aims to grow to a total of USD 80–100 million over ten years.

The Fund is designed to leverage an additional USD 40 million through co-financing. Partners accessing the Fund are expected to contribute either in-kind or in cash. While local organisations may participate through in-kind support, international organisations are required to match the Fund's financial contribution at a minimum 1:1 ratio in cash, with a strong emphasis on building local capacity in southern Africa.

FUND GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Partners4Nature forms an integral part of the portfolio of Peace Parks' conservation and community development programmes, falling under the governance structure of Peace Parks Foundation NPC, registered in South Africa. Funders approve a general set of funding criteria.

While the Peace Parks Board of Directors is ultimately responsible for the governance of the Partners4Nature Fund, a Partners4Nature Donor Council composed of donors who sign up for USD 1 million per annum for ten years, will be invited on an annual visit to one of the peace parks, where dedicated discussions will be held over the Partners4Nature strategy, the progress made, and the impacts achieved.

The Donor Council members will be given an opportunity to provide an input into the Annual Budget, Annual Workplan and Annual Technical and Financial Progress Reports.

With the first four funders joining and contributing a minimum annual donation of USD45 million, a 15% management fee (amounting to USD 750,000 per annum) will be allocated to support Head Office costs. This will enable project portfolio co-ordination, financial and technical reporting, monitoring and evaluation, learning, safeguards and compliance, and corporate communications. The Fund will operate as a fully integrated programme, strategically complementing project funding.

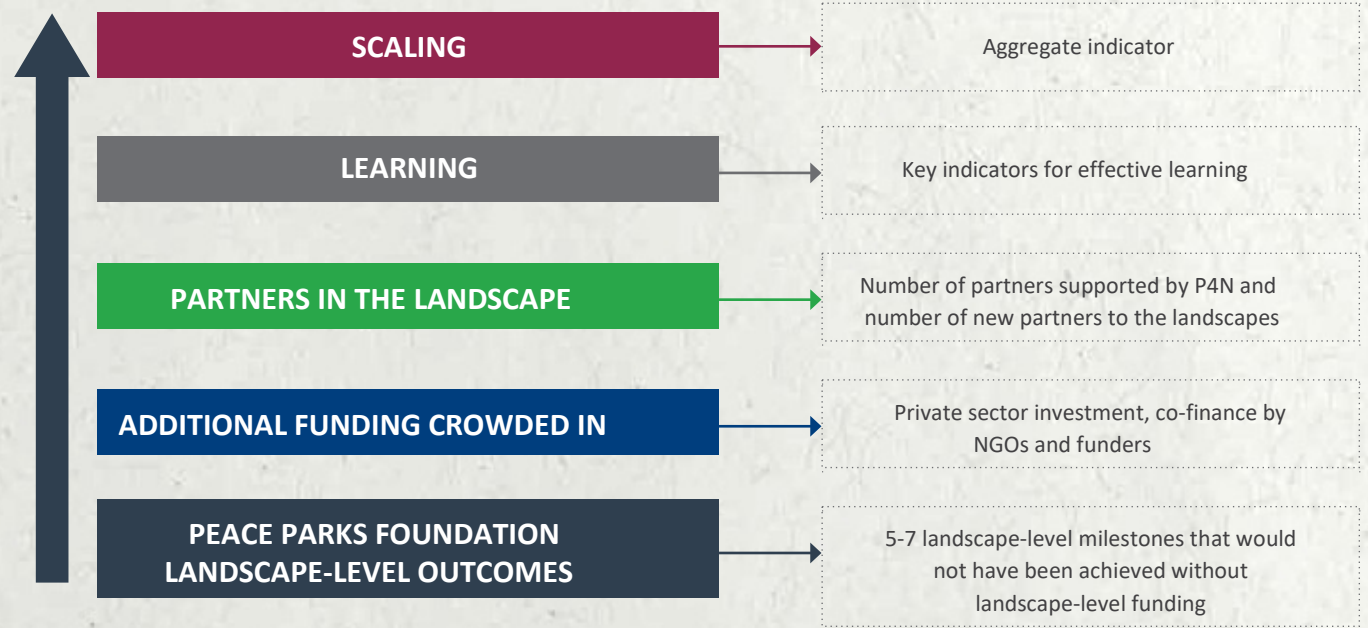
Peace Parks' oversight and support of the Fund's project portfolio will be included in the Fund's annual budget. An Operations Manual stipulates the details of the Fund's funding criteria, reporting requirements, management procedures and processes.

The increasing role of partners will require Peace Parks to grow its expertise and capacity in efficient sub-granting and working with low-capacity partners. Capacity development is a long-term process and building sustainable organisations is an art in itself. A partnership with, or secondment of staff from similar funds will be considered to accelerate our learning in terms of capacity needs, challenges, and pitfalls.



Partners4Nature’s performance measurement takes place at two distinct levels: outcomes achieved at a landscape level, and the Fund’s operational performance.

Landscape-level performance is assessed using a layered, aggregated indicator framework that incorporates the monitoring of broader landscape outcomes—outcomes that would not have been attainable through project-level financing alone. Additionally, the amount of private sector investment and development finance crowded into a landscape, the number of partners accessing the Fund, and new partners to the landscape will be key indicators for the Fund. Effective learning is determined by assessing the presence of learning goals, learning plans, learning channels and learning culture as well as anecdotal evidence of learning. All KPIs combined are analysed and summarised into a narrative about how successful the Fund is in scaling its impact.



Partners4Nature's operational performance is based on the monitoring of KPIs to be determined in three operational categories.

Category	Definition
Portfolio and donor management	<p>The Fund maximises the results of its grants/investments as a result of its effectiveness in identifying and assessing a wide range of catalytic funding opportunities with high benefit/cost ratio, resulting in a balanced and synergetic investment portfolio.</p> <p>Donors are kept abreast of the Fund's investment and achievements through attractive reporting and communications materials and channels, and annual on-site Donor Council meetings.</p>
Speed and quality of operations	<p>The Fund's financial and operational management provides rigour, is based on Peace Parks' financial and procurement policies, and yet it is agile and flexible to address the Fund's needs to respond quickly to threats and opportunities. Financial transparency is provided based on accessible near real time expenditure data captured in D365, cashflow forecasts and timely financial reports.</p> <p>Funding decisions are based on a set of P4N funding criteria. Timely disbursement of funds enables capitalisation on opportunities and mitigation of threats, while maximising outcomes.</p>
Monitoring, evaluation and learning	<p>The Fund's founders, donors and management are informed by processed and analysed data as a result of a well-functioning MEL system. It provides best-in-class inputs to single and double loop learning processes that enable reflection on progress vs goals and expectations. This will enable an adaptative management approach to optimise the Fund's results, vis-a-vis Peace Parks' 2030 Strategy.</p>

Partners4Nature operational performance.



II. PEACE PARKS FOUNDATION STRATEGY 2030 AND VISION 2050: SUMMARY

THE CHALLENGE

We are in an era of unprecedented change, both globally and within the southern African region. Identifying key trends and drivers of change – from global to local scales – and understanding how they interact is imperative in ensuring that Peace Parks' strategic focus is on target and of global relevance.

Due to climate change, rapid population growth, urbanisation, infrastructure development, migration and conflict, our planet is experiencing spiraling levels of environmental degradation. In turn, the degradation of nature leads to global warming, loss of security, lack of access to materials for a good life, illness and disease, and a breakdown in social relations.

Across the globe, nature is declining dramatically. Since 1970, monitored wildlife populations around the world have declined by an average of 69%, with freshwater populations taking the biggest knock, decreasing by 83%¹. An increase in the frequency and intensity of weather-related natural disasters – heatwaves, fires, floods, cyclones, droughts and more – reveal how vulnerable and exposed socio-ecological systems are to the current climate variability, as well as how much we depend on what nature provides. These phenomena result in a loss of security and sometimes displacement of already disadvantaged communities. Women and girls are the ones bearing the greatest burden of such instability because as resources become scarcer, they often forfeit their education and growth opportunities to spend time providing for their families².

¹ The Living Planet Report, World Wildlife Fund 2022

² UNWomen, 2022



Over time, competition for ever-decreasing natural resources compounds existing social discontent linked to inequality and extreme poverty, ultimately destabilising peace.

In Africa, the population is estimated to double by 2050 to approximately 2.5 billion people. This would constitute a quarter of the world's population living on one continent, placing enormous stress on already vulnerable ecosystems and limited resources. Encroachment by people and their domestic animals on wildlife habitats increases the risk of exposure to endemic or emerging zoonotic diseases, the cause of more than 1 billion human infections and over 6 million deaths globally between 202 and 2022.

Climate change, biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation are not only environmental issues but critical threats to humankind's economic, social, and cultural well-being.

Africa has a key role to play in countering this looming global devastation as it holds some of the world's largest, most unique and valuable ecosystems and is home to around a quarter of the planet's biodiversity³. Here, it is still possible to sustain large intact, connected and thriving ecosystems at a scale required to provide food and water, regulate disease and climatic systems, and deliver many other nature-based services that constitute the engine for basic survival, inclusive socio-economic development, and prosperity.

VISION 2050 – STRATEGY 2030

New, imaginative, integrated systems-thinking solutions are needed to address the impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation and rampant unregulated land-use change. 'Business as usual' is not an option. Transformative change and impact at scale are what we endeavour to achieve.

³ World Bank, 2022

⁴ UNEP-WCMC (2016). The State of Biodiversity in Africa: A mid-term review of progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK.

We work towards a vision at a scale that matches the magnitude of the challenge. Rooted in a Theory of Change based on science and years of field experience working with a broad range of partners, Peace Parks Foundation's mission is to reconnect Africa's wild spaces through transboundary ecosystems-based approaches to create a future for people in harmony with nature. Peace Parks directly contributes to the large-scale vision of building a continent-wide ecological infrastructure by reconnecting large landscapes and ecosystems to be a vital part of tempering the impacts of climate change and the fast-growing population in Africa.

VISION 2050

Peace Parks believes that conservation at scale creates healthy landscapes and resilient communities that are able to adapt to change. We also believe that large intact areas where nature is able to thrive are people's most precious assets when adapting to the challenges that lie ahead, while their intrinsic value is of global importance.

It is our vision that by 2050, Peace Parks has been instrumental in securing 980,000 km² of functional and formally protected transboundary landscapes in Southern Africa.

In 2000, Peace Parks engaged with all continental Southern African Development Community (SADC) Member States to identify potential and existing TFCAs. Of the 22 areas identified by the Member States, 18 were deemed feasible after further investigation and consultations. Peace Parks works across five priority transboundary landscapes in 10 key protected areas linked by seven key wildlife corridors. The approach that Peace Parks has now taken, compared to 20 years ago, is vastly different due to many lessons learned along the way. One of the most important of these was to ensure that robust governance mechanisms are implemented, whether at the level of the

TFCA, protected area or community. Another insight gained is that successful conservation starts and ends with the people living in that landscape, who depend on its natural wealth.

With that in mind, Peace Parks believes that all 18 Transfrontier Conservation Areas currently deemed viable to be developed, spanning over 980,000 km², will need to become functional and sustainable by 2050. To achieve this, Peace Parks commits to assisting governments, communities, and the private sector with processes to unlock the economic potential of protected areas in an inclusive, equitable and sustainable manner.

Considering Peace Parks' compound growth over the past decade, at 25% per annum, its openness to partner with like-minded organisations, and the ever-growing global awareness among politicians and corporates alike that functional ecosystems with intact biodiversity represent a low-hanging fruit to mitigate climate change, this ambitious target is not only doable but of global importance.

STRATEGY 2030

Aiming for our vision of 980,000 km² by 2050, we have set clear strategic objectives to be achieved by 2030.

The objective is to have improved the functioning and sustainability of five transboundary landscapes by protecting and professionally managing 10 key protected areas, and establishing restored ecological connectivity through 7 key corridors, by 2030.

To ensure a focused approach towards achieving the 2030 objectives, three thematic intervention areas have been defined that encompass all implementation interventions: conservation, community and conservation finance.

Conservation: restoring and conserving Africa's wild spaces in transboundary landscapes.

Science-based solutions are deployed to **protect restore**, and **reconnect** key terrestrial and marine ecosystems, ensuring that biodiversity is revitalised, and the ever-decreasing stock of natural resources is replenished.

Four conservation outcome categories have been identified:

- Improved functioning of TFCAs;
- Restored ecological connectivity in transboundary landscapes;
- Professionally managed protected areas; and
- Restored and protected species, habitats, ecosystems, and genetic diversity within TFCAs.

Communities: strengthening the resilience of communities living in transboundary landscapes.

The success of transboundary landscapes rests with communities that need to be equipped and empowered to sustainably benefit from ecosystem services, creating healthy, resilient communities that are stewards of the landscape. Inclusive community governance must be put in place to steer and sustain socio-economic opportunities through a conservation-enabled economy, offering a better quality of life and aspirations for all their members.

Three community outcome categories have been identified:

- Inclusive community governance and capacity;
- Safe and secure communities, offering better quality of life and aspirations for all its members; and
- Improved resilience and socio-economic opportunities through a conservation-enabled economy.

Conservation finance: enabling the financial sustainability of protected areas in transboundary landscapes.

We must claim our position as leaders in innovative conservation financing, creating and mainstreaming new and diversified income sources to establish security and sustainability for protected landscapes and people.

Three conservation finance outcome categories have been identified:

- Investment readiness of TFCAs;
- Sustainable cashflows in TFCAs; and
- Increased investment in TFCAs.

All implementation actions must be inclusive and incorporate aspects of climate mitigation, climate adaptation, biodiversity resilience and ecosystem restoration coupled with resource use reduction.

If Peace Parks can achieve this, we will be a beacon of hope to the world – demonstrating through our work how people can use nature to adapt to climate change, improve human well-being, and reduce fragility and conflict, whilst creating space for all life within an ecosystem to flourish.



Peace Parks Foundation STRATEGY 2030



THE CHALLENGE

Degradation of nature leads to climate change, loss of security, lack of access to materials for a good life, illness and disease, and breakdown in social relations.

Our Focus



CONSERVATION AT SCALE



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



INNOVATIVE CONSERVATION FINANCE

Strategy 2030

- 5 Priority Transboundary Landscapes
- 10 Key Protected Areas
- 7 Key Ecological Linkages

2050 VISION

CONSERVATION AT SCALE:
980,000 km² of functioning Transboundary Landscapes

What we achieve



Biodiversity



Climate Change



Water Security



Sustainable Livelihoods



Fragility, Conflict and Violence



Gender Equity



Health



Employment



Financial Sustainability



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