



Bafa Mundari tribesman © African Parks/Marcus Westberg



Beisa Oryx © African Parks/Mike Fay

Save South Sudan's Great Antelope Migration

One of the last and most exceptional wildernesses in Africa hosts an astounding event—what may well be the largest antelope migration in the world where millions of White-eared Kobs, Mongalla Gazelles, Tiangs and Bohor Reedbucks sweep across the Boma-Badingilo Migratory Landscape in South Sudan. This is a vast 9.3 million acres of savanna and woodland floodplains shaped by seasonal flooding from tributaries of the White Nile River and the animals that feed on its abundant grasses. It encompasses Boma and Badingilo National Parks on either end and over 2.2 million acres of unprotected savanna habitat in between.

Scattered across the landscape are small populations of imperiled elephants, oryx and a critically endangered subspecies of giraffe, the Nubian Giraffe. They are pursued by lions, cheetahs and other predators as they have been for thousands of years.

Threatened species have been pushed closer to extinction by the same political instability and civil war that for decades have taken a terrible toll on the people of South Sudan, Africa's newest country. Poaching for bushmeat and ivory from elephants has decimated their populations, along with those of the lions, cheetahs and giraffes. The area is also under intense pressure from oil, gas and mining development. And the flooded grasslands in this region have high value as wetlands that, if not protected, will be developed for high-production agriculture.

In the process of South Sudan becoming an independent country, the two national parks that bookend the Boma-Badingilo Migratory Landscape lost their official protective status. Rainforest Trust and our partner, African Parks Network, seek \$4,044,349 to support the re-establishment and expansion of Boma and Badingilo National Parks and the designation of the unprotected acres in between as Community Conservancies, for a total project area of 9,376,800 acres. This project is part of a greater strategy to increase connectivity with neighboring Gambela and Omo National Parks in Ethiopia and vast, unprotected areas to the north.

SAVE DECLINING POPULATIONS OF UNIQUE AFRICAN SPECIES

To learn more about this extraordinary, intact wilderness and the millions of animals surviving here, our partner is fitting multiple species with over 100 GPS collars. By gathering data on the migration and its parameters, much will also be learned about how to save the Endangered African Savanna Elephant and Beisa Oryx, and the Vulnerable Lion, Cheetah and Giraffe that are scattered across this landscape in small, unknown numbers.



9,376,800
ACRES

\$4,044,349
PROJECT COST

\$0.43
COST PER ACRE

423,568,347 mT
CO₂ EQUIVALENTS
STORED

KEY SPECIES:

African Savanna Elephant (EN),
Beisa Oryx (EN), Lion (VU),
Cheetah (VU), Giraffe (VU)

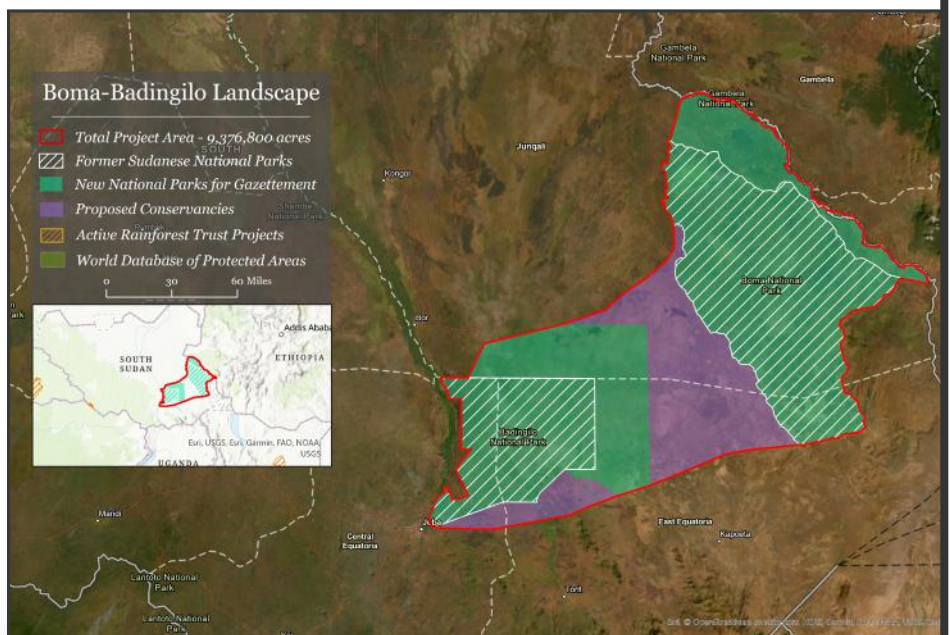


Tiang migration © African Parks/Mike Fay

Although preliminary surveys have revealed much greater numbers of antelopes than previously known, the populations of elephants, cheetahs and lions are severely diminished from poaching and conflict with herders. It also seems that the Zebra has completely disappeared from the landscape due to over-hunting.

SUPPORT LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO REBUILD BIODIVERSITY IN SOUTH SUDAN

The Boma-Badingilo Landscape is a vast and inaccessible area with a long history of various ethnic groups living as pastoralists. There are a few villages scattered through it and an estimated population of 40,000 people. Extensive, ongoing engagement with local communities, government and other stakeholders will be vital to building understanding and support for conservation initiatives. Baseline social and ecological data will be gathered to inform a universally agreed-upon Land Use Management Plan. The project will support the development of sustainable enterprises, environmental education programs, and health and employment initiatives.



White-eared Kob migration © African Parks/Mike Fay

