



Protect and regenerate ecosystems

LGT Venture Philanthropy works to support scalable, community-based ecosystem protection and regeneration models with the aim to safeguard planetary health and fight Climate Change.

LGT VP

LGT Venture Philanthropy (LGT VP) is an independent charitable foundation that supports organizations with effective, innovative and scalable solutions to social and environmental challenges, contributing directly to the achievement of the SDGs. LGT VP strives to improve the quality of life of disadvantaged people, contribute to healthy ecosystems, and build resilient, inclusive and prosperous communities, working across three sectors: education, health and environment. In addition, LGT VP connects portfolio organizations with business professionals providing know-how and strategic guidance through the LGT Impact Fellowship. LGT VP is the venture philanthropy arm of LGT Group.

LGT VP Environment Strategy

To fight the climate crisis and enhance food security, water supply, biodiversity, and livelihoods, we must massively scale up the protection and regeneration of threatened and destroyed ecosystems. LGT VP’s environment strategy therefore focuses on community-based, marine and terrestrial ecosystem protection and regeneration solutions in biodiversity hotspots including Natural Climate Solutions.

Ecosystem approach

As the megatrends of ecosystem and biodiversity emergency, climate crisis, and increased inequality converge to create a “perfect storm”, we see protecting and regenerating ecosystems as the starting point to break the cycle of degradation. Ecosystems perform “ecosystem services” that are inseparable from planetary health, including oxygen, fresh water and food production, as well as regulating climate and disease. Ecosystems are therefore central to providing sustainable livelihoods and currently also present the only viable option to draw down CO₂ from the atmosphere at scale to mitigate Climate Change.

Communities

Local communities hold the knowledge to successfully protect and regenerate the ecosystems they live in and must be part of any effort to protect and regenerate them. They are best placed to drive Climate Change mitigation by preserving the vast reservoirs of CO₂ sequestered in community-held lands. LGT VP backs inclusive and sustainable community based ecosystem solutions.

Regional focus

LGT VP supports organizations in emerging markets, with a focus on Sub-Saharan Africa and India.

SDGs

Through its environment strategy, LGT VP works towards the achievement of SDGs 13 (Climate Action), 14 (Life under Water), 15 (Life on Land) and 17 (Partnerships).



Solutions approach

While the core focus is scaling local organizations, LGT VP also considers complementary, synergistic engagements, including areas such as policy and advocacy, data analysis and evaluation, innovative funding mechanism, and partnerships.

Selection considerations

- LGT VP seeks out entrepreneurial solutions built for scale and replication that:
- operate in biodiversity hotspots to holistically address degradation of marine/coastal and terrestrial ecosystems, thereby contributing to Climate Change mitigation and adaptation
 - have secured reliable sources of funding, including through innovative income streams such as ecotourism, carbon credits, etc.
 - include and are owned by local communities and ensure sustainable livelihoods for them (where possible)
 - operate long-term, ideally with the support of local governments

- demonstrate impact (CO2 absorbed, acres impacted, livelihoods increased)
- have annual budgets of over >USD 2m
- allow LGT VP to play a meaningful, catalytic, value-add role, as well as to work in strategic partnerships

Contact

Please note that LGT VP does not accept unsolicited proposals.
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Portfolio example



Engagement in the Maasai Mara, Kenya

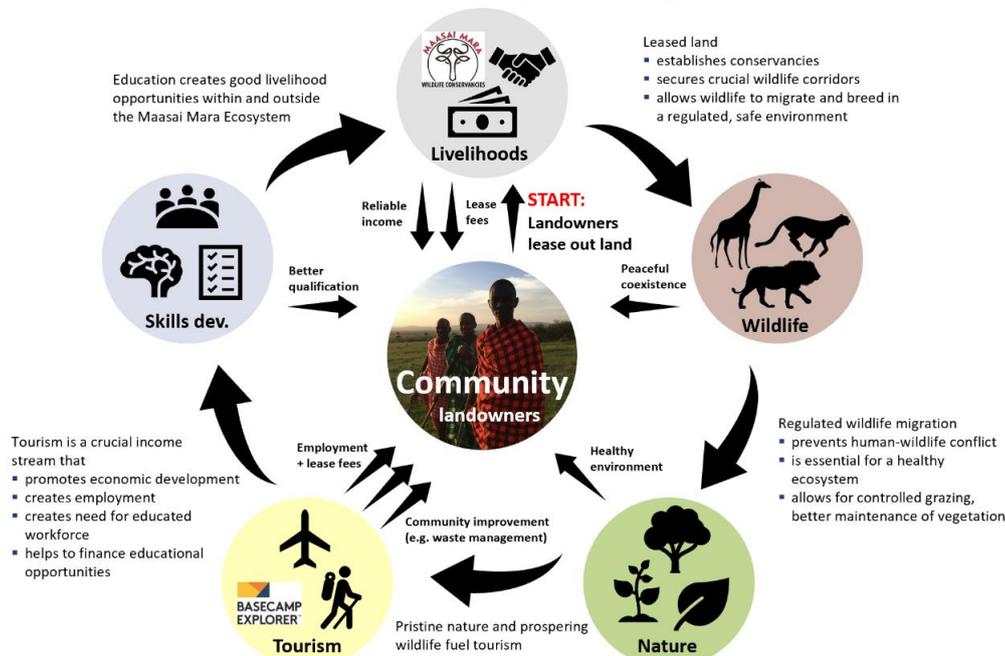


While most tourism conservancies in the Maasai Mara are run solely by tourist operators, our partners in the Maasai Mara have developed a unique model with Mara Naboisho Conservancy in which the local Maasai landowners are equally represented. It empowers the Maasai through employment opportunities and various charitable projects and enables them to continue their traditional way of life as herders. The Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association (MMWCA), the overall umbrella body for the Mara conservancies seeks to enable thriving conservancies across the Greater Mara Ecosystem and scale the model of long-term leasing of land crucial for wildlife migration.

LGT VP has been working to protect the greater Maasai Mara ecosystem since 2016, providing non-programmatic funding to support synergistic work to protect and regenerate the ecosystem, including:

- Securing crucial wildlife corridors, including in the Pardamat Conservation Area – LGT VP financed lease fees to secure over 5,000 acres of land in Pardamat to avoid fencing; fencing destroys migratory corridors and therefore, through leasing of land, the corridors will remain open and families have reliable income sources
- Building the Wildlife Tourism College – LGT VP's local partners are establishing a new college in the Mara to train the community a broad range of skills needed to operate the Mara conservancies and provide a high-quality tourism experience.
- Capacity building – LGT VP provided operational capital to strengthen capacity of MMWCA to achieve its mission
- LGT VP supports its local partners on pilot initiatives in the areas of waste management and carbon capture.

The Naboisho model harmonizes interests of local community, nature and wildlife and creates a mutually beneficial cycle



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