



Case Study

Strategic Renewal: Advancing Natural Climate Solutions

ABOUT

Doris Duke Foundation (DDF) is a U.S.-based charitable organization established in 1996 with a mission to build a more creative, equitable, and sustainable future. Its Environment Program focuses on preserving, stewarding, and restoring nature, supporting innovative conservation and climate strategies, and fostering collaboration for lasting environmental impact.

“GKS helped us create a disciplined process, with rigorous analysis and structured decision making, that ultimately supported a new approach to strategy setting. We don't just feel ready to launch this next phase of our work, we have a new strategic planning template for our entire organization.”

– **Sacha Spector,**
Program Director for the
Environment,
Doris Duke Foundation



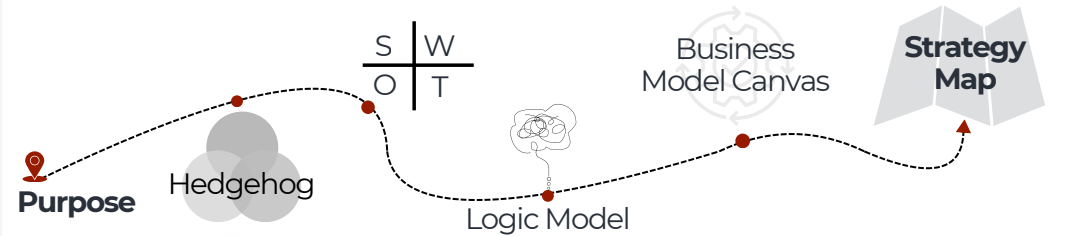
Source: Doris Duke Foundation

The foundation is positioned to drive greater carbon impact, support ecosystem resilience, and strengthen equity goals in the NCS sector in the U.S.

THE CHALLENGE

DDF's Environment Program was looking to maximize its impact in natural climate solutions while navigating competing conservation priorities, fast-evolving scientific knowledge, and changing policies. To do this effectively, it needed a clear assessment and strategy for where its philanthropic resources would drive the most progress for climate and biodiversity outcomes. An additional challenge was to coordinate and inspire its broad network of grantees, partners, and stakeholders around an updated, unified strategy for action.

OUR SOLUTION



GKS delivered a targeted strategic package that mapped the NCS landscape to pinpoint where DDF could drive the greatest impact. The team developed a refreshed theory of change with a clear strategic roadmap, identified new grantmaking and resource opportunities, strengthened collaboration among grantees, and engaged key partners to inform on every aspect of the strategy.

THE IMPACT

DDF emerged with a comprehensive NCS strategy underpinned by current landscape insights, stronger social capital across its grantee network, and a practical, evidence-based roadmap for scaling conservation and climate action.

13
MONTHS
LENGTH OF ENGAGEMENT

16
NCS LANDSCAPE
ASSESSMENT INTERVIEWS
DELIVERABLES

4
NCSI STRATEGY
CHARRETTES

3
PRIORITIZED
ACTIVITY AREAS

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