



Photo: Lisa Kristine

Sustainability action · Project Forest and Land use

Kasigau REDD forest protection, Kenya

This forest conservation project provides sustainable livelihood opportunities for communities in Kenya, a region now suffering heavily from deforestation, poverty, and drought.

Project

The historical pattern of deforestation in the Kasigau area is caused by an increasing population who ran out of land in their historic areas, and who are looking for new land to practice subsistence agriculture on. Unfortunately, the land in the Kasigau Wildlife Corridor is right at the frontier of this population expansion, and this land has no permanent water sources and receives extremely low rainfall. The result is rapid desertification as once the forest cover is removed for agriculture, the soil has no protection from the equatorial sun and degrades quickly.

The conservation approach is to create sustainable economic alternatives for the local communities, allowing them to provide for their families.

A wide range of sustainable development initiatives have been established at Rukinga over the past ten years. Among them is the construction of the Ecofactory, the only certified Fair Trade and carbon neutral garment factory in Africa. Men and women from the community are trained in making organic cotton clothes that are exported to the US and Europe for sale online and in fashion boutiques.

Another example is the establishment of an organic greenhouse to raise citrus seedlings. Typically these are drought resistant and high yield, enabling farmers to grow cash crops in a far smaller area than maize or other arable crops, which are purely reliant on unpredictable rains. Several initiatives are focused on improving the education situation for the next generation, from the building and renovation of classrooms and equipment to the provision of over 3,200 bursaries in the last ten years.

Checklist	Additionality and permanence	3 rd party verified	Transparency	Annual CO ₂ -reduction	Social and environmental benefits	Marketing material
Project 301 267	According to the rules of the CCBS and VCS	By DNV	Provided by Markit Environmental Registry	1,200,000 tCO ₂ e	As documented in our database	High resolution pictures and video available



Location

The Kasigau Wildlife Corridor lies in the Southeast of Kenya between two National Parks, Tsavo East and Tsavo West. It comprises approximately 500,000 acres of dryland forest and savannah grassland serving as an important wildlife corridor for elephants, giraffes, zebras, and other large mammals between the two National Parks.

Project achievements

Socio-economic impact

- Direct employment opportunities have been generated for about 350 local people, such as unarmed wildlife rangers, eco-charcoal operations, community outreach and agriculture.
- In the last three years, 15 school classrooms have been built and equipped, benefitting over 8,500 children.
- A scholarship program has helped thousands of local children through high school, and sent several students to college.
- An eco-factory has been built, training local people to sew organic cotton, Fair Trade and carbon neutral clothes that are sold locally and internationally. The factory employs over 75 people of which 95% are women.
- Since 2013, 10,000 kg of charcoal have been produced without cutting down a single tree.
- In the last four years, 10 water projects have been completed, serving over 26,000 people.
- In 2015 alone, 28 different women groups received a total of USD 20,000 for over 5000 handmade craft products.

Environmental impact

- Protection of crucial habitat for endangered or vulnerable species such as elephants, lions, zebras, buffaloes and others.
- Forest fires can be avoided and contained through education and training on fire prevention and fire fighting.
- Over 55,000 trees were planted in the last four years.
- 11,000 elephants that use the Kasigau Migration Corridor are protected.



Photo: Lisa Kristine



Photo: Lisa Kristine



Photo: Lisa Kristine