

THE KASIGAU CORRIDOR REDD FOREST PROTECTION KENYA

**Building local economies around sustainable activities
to address poverty and promote forest protection**



This forest conservation project provides sustainable livelihood opportunities for communities in Kenya, a region suffering heavily from deforestation, poverty, and drought. Through a combination of dryland forest protection and extraordinary community sustainable development activities, this project estimates to avoid over 48 million metric tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere over a 30 year period.

The Context

The historical pattern of deforestation in the Kasigau area is due to an ever-increasing population and the prevalence of unsustainable agriculture. Unfortunately, the land in the Kasigau Wildlife Corridor is right at the frontier of this population expansion. With a poor infrastructure, no permanent water sources and extremely low rainfall, the mosaic pattern of deforestation in Kasigau is directly linked to the poverty and hardship people in this area face.

The Project

This project builds on Wildlife Works' first REDD project 'Rukinga Ranch' which has been protecting forests, flora and fauna in Kasigau since 2006. The aim of this new, larger project is to bring the benefits of direct carbon financing to surrounding communities, while simultaneously addressing alternative livelihoods and protecting vital ecosystems. The project area spans a total of 169,741 hectares and employs over 150 local people in a range of sustainable activities including; reforestation, eco-charcoal production, ecotourism, conservancy management, health projects, forest and biodiversity monitoring, plus numerous more community driven activities.

The Benefits

By building local economies around sustainable activities, this project gives the people in Kasigau an incentive to protect their local ecosystems. The project has maintained the local flora and fauna biodiversity by improving the forest conditions, stopping illegal wildlife hunting, and encouraging the farming of various arid-resistant crops such as jojoba and citrus. Various local employment opportunities have arisen from the eco-factory, organic greenhouse farming, forest and biodiversity monitoring efforts, ecotourism, and school construction. The project also promotes education with school scholarships and provides training for local women's groups in entrepreneurial skills.

"When I was a poacher, I did not own a house and neither of my children went to school. But now with my job at Wildlife Works, my children are attending a good private school and I have built a comfortable house for myself."

Ayub Vura,
tracker for Wildlife Works



**3,044
students**

have received sponsorship at a total cost of USD 208,873



**25
women**

groups provided with product sales and marketing assistance training



**150
people**

from the community employed in various project activities, providing a much needed boost to local economies



**1,614,959
tCO₂e**

of GHG emissions are avoided annually from all project activities



**34,980
trees seedlings**

planted for Mt. Kasigau reforestation in 2011 and 2012

For more information on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, please visit: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

Official name: The Kasigau Corridor REDD Project - Phase II The Community | **UNFCCC/markit/VCS link:** http://www.vcsprojectdatabase.org/#/project_details/612 | **VCS ID:** 612