

Q1 2020

Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project **Impact Report**



**EVER
LAND**

**WILDLIFE
WORKS**



Q1 2020 Summary

Despite the onset of uncertainty towards the end of the first quarter due to COVID-19, the Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project has continued to deliver significant progress across the entire project area. In addition to providing continued, ongoing livelihoods support to the communities through uninterrupted direct employment, procurement of seedlings, and over \$200,000 in educational bursaries, the project has also deployed its capabilities to produce critical medical supplies.

The existence and strength of the REDD+ Project provides a critical safety net and resilience for the community in this extraordinary time.

Community education

Greenhouse operations

Wildlife thriving





Communities investing in their children

The communities of the Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project have recognized the importance of investing in the education of their children, and have allocated a significant portion of the carbon revenues directly received into achieving this goal.

After initiating an application process at the end of 2019, the Bursary Sub-Committees of each community's Locational Carbon Committee (the community governance institution created to determine each community's investment priorities for carbon revenues) received and vetted student applications in January 2020.

Using a transparent, inclusive decision process, the Sub-Committees awarded a total of 4,123 educational bursaries, with \$235,000 in total awarded. Bursaries were awarded to students attending University, College, Secondary School, Vocational Institutions, and special care schools, with 51% of the awards supporting female students.

These funds were allocated directly by the communities themselves, from carbon revenues they received to support projects of their own choosing.



Highlights





Community building through greenhouse cultivation

The project has continued to build on its longstanding innovative program with the community, in which the project pays community members to provide seeds that are grown in the project's nurseries, and to help raise and harvest plants and trees that will eventually be used in reforestation activities.

Before the coronavirus outbreak, 25,974 seedlings (worth ~\$3,500) had been bought and collected from community members and delivered to the nursery.

Since late 2019, the project has established woodlots with 20 community members, in which they have planted 7,504 *Melia volkensii*. By also planting *Acacia robusta*, they are establishing strands of indigenous trees (on previously degraded, idle land) for high value timber and charcoal sales in the long term, as well as hosting bees (for crop and forest tree pollination). *Moringa oleifera* trees were also included to provide nutritional value for the community, and additional potential for market value.



Wildlife thriving

Wildlife throughout the project area is thriving due to the extended rainy season since October 2019.

Waterholes have maintained high water levels, preventing wildlife and cattle from coming into competition, and food has been plentiful. This has resulted in a wildlife “baby boom” in the region: The project’s aerial surveillance team has had exciting sightings of endangered Grevy zebra foals, as well as a set of elephant twins.

Thanks to continued community engagement and protection by the Wildlife Works ranger teams on the ground, after the rains cease the wildlife will continue to have a safe haven in the project area.



COVID-19 Response: Shifting Community Engagement



Challenges

With non-essential meetings and gatherings being banned in Kenya, the Community team has been unable to undertake its normal community sensitization.

To address this challenge, the Community teams are adapting to provide resources for those most adversely affected by the situation. Hand washing stations are being provided in areas of most need, as well as food provisions donated in conjunction with the County Government COVID-19 Committee. The project is continuing to support the local Chiefs and Community Health Workers where required, including the provision of reusable face masks.



COVID-19 Response: Shifting Greenhouse Operations

The Greenhouse department hosts community groups (mainly women groups, as well as schools) to receive practical training in grafting fruit trees, how to plant and grow trees for improved survival, making compost, making and using biopesticide, and vertical farming among other activities. With the arrival of the pandemic, although the tree seedlings are still being tended to in the greenhouse, the project is unable to host the groups as they normally would.

While business as usual has paused in this regard, there are new and exciting opportunities to work with partners on visiting families and communities in their homesteads in order to educate them on kitchen gardens and vertical farming in order to improve food security.



COVID-19 Response: Using project infrastructure to meet the moment

Due to Coronavirus, schools throughout Kenya have been closed, along with non-essential businesses. After a brief closure of the project's eco-factory whilst the team evaluated how it could best respond, the project decided to re-open with a small team (those who are able to work due to lack of restrictions from childcare requirements, who also live closest to the factory).

Since then, this small crew has been producing reusable face masks for local communities, as well as taking orders from existing garment clients to cater for their staff. The project is also in the process of obtaining the permits to produce masks for surgical masks for the county medical teams.

This adaptive repurposing of project assets highlights the critical way in which the infrastructure and management capacity cultivated by high-impact REDD+ is meaningfully strengthening the resilience of forest communities.



Impact Over Time



Forest Impacts

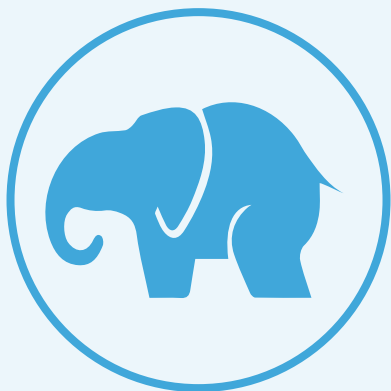


Protects over **200,00 hectares**
of dryland forest

13,936,339 million tonnes
of avoided GHG emissions
avoided to date



Wildlife Impacts



11,000 wild elephants

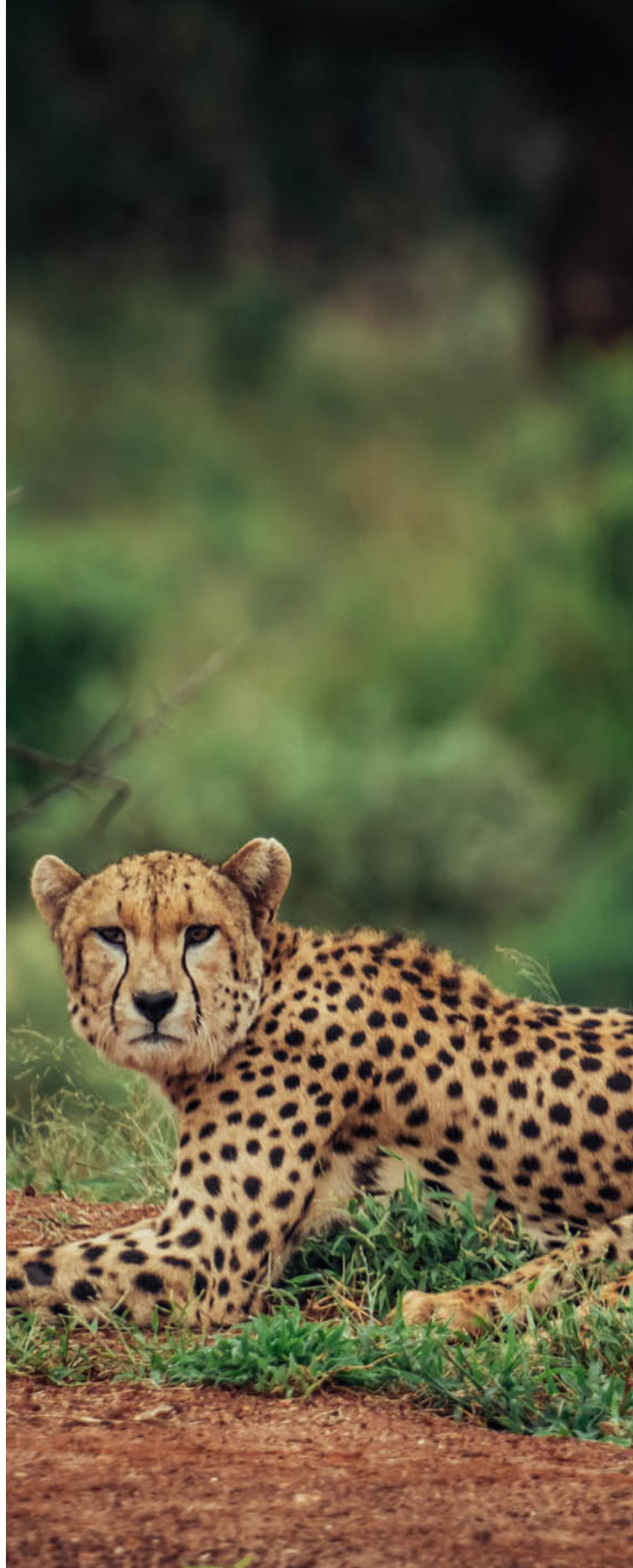
live in this ecosystem (2000+ of those elephants call the project area home)

Home to more than **20** species of bats, over **50** species of large mammals, over **300** species of birds and important populations of IUCN Red List species, including African Elephants, African Wild Dog, Cheetah, and Grevy's Zebra.

Over 8,500

vehicle and walking patrols undertaken since 2012 by the Wildlife Works' rangers in six Base Stations.

Rangers have completed over **1,000** flight days since 2015, covering nearly **231,000** km over the entire Project Area and surrounding areas



Impact Over Time

V Community Impacts



More than **25,000 people** now have access to portable water

310 locally hired employees, 2nd largest employer in the county

28 classrooms have been built and over **11,000** students have been awarded scholarships from the project, totaling over \$530,000

Project works with over **1,200** women across **42** women's groups



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