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An NCS Lighthouse

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# Kasigau Corridor REDD+

<b>Project/Programme Type</b>	The project generates carbon credits through avoided deforestation. Wildlife Works developed the “methodology for avoided ecosystem conversion,” which has been authorized by Verra and adopted by other REDD+ projects around the world.
<b>Description</b>	The project manages a safe corridor for wildlife in an area of dryland forest between two national parks in southeast Kenya. REDD+ has created a mechanism to partner with local landowners and communities in forest protection and generate sustainable income for development from conservation activities.
<b>Location</b>	The project area stretches between Kenya’s Tsavo East and Tsavo West National Parks, an area that is home to elephants, lions, wild dogs, zebras and other iconic species.
<b>Scale</b>	The project protects 199,000 hectares of dryland forest.
<b>Number of Credits Issued to Date</b>	18,000,000
<b>Project Proponent</b>	<u>Wildlife Works</u>



# Impacts

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## Impact To-Date

The project's six communities have spent the money they have earned from protecting forest to build schools, expand water access and transition to more sustainable agricultural practices. The project also protects 15 high conservation value species, including important endangered populations such as; Grevy's zebra, cheetah, leopard, lion, African wild dogs as well as over 2,000 African elephants. More than 300 local jobs have been created including rangers, community outreach officers, green house farmers, shop technicians, builders and more.

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## Projected Longer-Term Impact

The project will prevent the emission of 48 million tons of carbon dioxide over its 30-year lifetime. The revenue generated from carbon credits will support economic development, better agriculture and alternative livelihoods in participating communities.

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# Elephants Were a Problem for this Kenyan Community—and REDD+ Was the Solution

Fifteen years ago, Seraphine Charo bought a plot of land between Kenya's Tsavo East and Tsavo West National Parks to grow cowpeas, pigeon peas and maize. "I got here when it was rainy and green," she says, but the landscape around her village became browner with every passing year: "Now it's drier and the rains don't come regularly." As the climate changed, elephants moving between the parks intruded more frequently on Charo and her neighbors' farms. "They just come and start breaking trees and eating whatever they can get," Seraphine says. "They can remove a whole acre within one evening."

The elephant conflicts grew so bad that, 12 years ago, Seraphine and some neighbors asked to partner with Wildlife Works, a conservation company that had been working since the nineties to create a safe corridor of protected land for animals between the two parks. In these meetings, representatives from Wildlife Works invited Seraphine and her neighbors to participate in an expansion of their project called the Kasigau REDD+ Project. Communities could generate carbon credits by protecting forest and sell them to companies seeking to counterbalance their annual unabated greenhouse gas emissions. The communities could spend the revenues not only to better protect forests and wildlife but also to create jobs, expand social services and build infrastructure. "It was a very welcome idea to me," Seraphine says.

Initially, Wildlife Works financed conservation and employed local community members through a garment production facility, as well as philanthropy and safari tourism. They hired rangers and worked with local ranchers to adopt sustainable practices on their land between the parks. Deforestation continued, however, as farmers cleared forest to replace depleted fields and trees were cut down for charcoal production. "If you looked over the satellite imagery, you could see this boundary of slash and burn agriculture coming up and closer to the project," Jamie Hendriksen, Wildlife Work's regional director of operations in Africa, says.



Seraphine Charo  
Community  
Representative  
Wildlife Works

**They just come and start breaking trees and eating whatever they can get, they can remove a whole acre within one evening.**

It was difficult to stop deforestation with traditional fundraising tools—let alone increase investment in local communities. "If there's a natural disaster or a reason tourism stops or donors stop giving, then we see huge conservation areas really brought to their knees," Hendriksen says. "The carbon market brought the prospect of an alternative revenue stream for conservation."



**200,000**  
hectares land  
protected from  
deforestation



Increased  
water access  
for  
**50,000**  
people

**116,000**  
community  
partners



**48**  
million  
tons of CO<sub>2</sub>  
prevented

Follow the  
progress





The Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project has sold more than 18 million carbon credits and prevented the deforestation of more than 200,000 hectares of land since 2011. A third of the revenue from each credit goes to local ranchers who own land in the project area. They have used the money to build roads and invest in higher quality livestock management practices like holistic grazing; and have also begun to explore tourism opportunities. "One of the great things about REDD+ is that it's compatible with so many other industries," Hendriksen says. The remaining two-thirds of the revenue from each credit is used to protect forests and invest in the communities' forest economies.



Seraphine Charo  
Community  
Representative  
Wildlife Works

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Each of Kasigau's six communities, representing 116,000 people, has formed a Locational Carbon Committee to decide democratically how to spend its share of the carbon revenue. Each committee has between seven to 11 members representing the different villages in the community. Seraphine's neighbors chose her as their representative. "We go back to the people and ask them what they need," she says. "What we do as a committee is simply to prioritize the projects that have been mentioned during the public participation."

The 500 families in Seraphine's village have used some of their income to build a water tank on a nearby hill that supplies water to all the local households—and, across the six communities,

carbon revenue has funded 54 water projects and increased water access to more than 50,000 people. Communities have also built or renovated 120 classrooms and given out more than 25,000 student bursaries. Villages have planted woodlots where residents can harvest charcoal and timber without cutting down forest; and farmers, like Seraphine, have learned agricultural techniques like contour trenching to conserve water and soil and improve their yields.



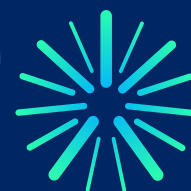
Jamie Hendriksen  
Regional Director of  
Operation in Africa  
Wildlife Works

**If there's a natural disaster or a reason tourism stops or donors stop giving, then we see huge conservation areas really brought to their knees. The carbon market brought the prospect of an alternative revenue stream for conservation.**

"As these basic needs get met, more of the profit will start going towards alternative incomes and creating employment within communities," Hendriksen says. "We're currently doing analysis of what further alternative incomes could be."

Wildlife Works has also used some of the carbon revenue to expand its own business and become the second largest private employer in the county, creating more than 300 jobs for artisans, greenhouse farmers, builders and shopkeepers. In addition, the company has also taken the lead in protecting forest, using REDD+ revenue to pay the salaries of 120 forest rangers from local communities and equip them with eight vehicles and two light aircraft. Wildlife Works has financed the construction of camps throughout the project area, where the rangers can stay overnight.

Growing numbers of elephants, lions, wild dogs, cheetahs and zebras use the Kasigau corridor to move between the national parks. Not only do the rangers protect animals from poachers, but they also work with villagers like Seraphine to protect their farms from elephants with spotlights and noise-making devices. "Sometimes during harvest season, the rangers actually camp around the villages, so they can reach us as fast as possible whenever there is an elephant," she says. "We don't find it as big a problem these days."



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## About the NCS Alliance

The NCS Alliance (NCSA) conveys the voice of businesses, NGOs and solution providers on the need to mobilize a high integrity demand for high quality Natural Climate Solutions (NCS). The Alliance focuses on identifying opportunities and barriers to investment in the NCS voluntary carbon market and serves as a forum for knowledge sharing and technical capacity building to ensure natural climate solutions reach their full potential in abating climate change, while also tackling nature loss and socio-economic issues. To build trust in high quality NCS, the NCSA has established the NCS Lighthouse programme.

For more information visit [www.naturalclimatesolutionsalliance.org](http://www.naturalclimatesolutionsalliance.org) and follow us on [LinkedIn](#).



## About NCS Lighthouse Programme

The NCS Lighthouse Programme shines a light on projects and programmes that can be used as examples of good practice for supply and are a beacon in the path to developing trust in NCS for people, nature and climate. The NCS Lighthouses help elevate the successful human, environmental, and climate stories behind these initiatives.

The NCS Lighthouses, selected based on screening criteria developed by an NCSA Taskforce comprising NGOs, businesses and solution providers, have demonstrated alignment to the NCSA's quality principles for NCS credits, as presented within '[Natural Climate Solutions for Corporates](#)'.

The NCS Lighthouse Programme is made possible with generous funding support from the We Mean Business Coalition.

## Disclaimer

Inclusion of an NCS project or programme in the NCS Lighthouse Programme does not imply a recommendation to purchase, trade or retire credits associated with the Lighthouse.

The NCS Alliance and its members take no responsibility for the purchase, trade or retirement of credits from these projects and programmes. Instead, it recommends that individuals, companies and other organisations procuring credits as part of their climate strategies conduct their own independent due diligence to validate the quality and environmental integrity of their purchases.

The NCS Alliance secretariat in no way benefits financially or by other means from the selection.

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