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An NCS Lighthouse

Makame Savannah

Project/Programme Type	Makame Savannah Project is a community-led REDD+ project that calculates carbon credits based on avoided deforestation. Its credits are verified by Verra.
Description	The project works with five Maasai communities to manage their herds, conserve savannah, build infrastructure and expand public services. As equal partners in the project and the primary stakeholders, the Maasai communities also benefit from strengthened land tenure achieved through project operations. Natural resource protection activities conducted by the communities have resulted in reduced deforestation and a reduction in poaching incidents by 93%. The protection of this ecosystem has led to improved grazing for livestock and food and water security for both livestock and people.
Location	The project is located in the Makame Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in northern Tanzania.
Scale	The project covers 104,065 hectares within the WMA's area of 364,000 hectares.
Number of Credits Issued to Date	517,064
Project Proponent	Carbon Tanzania



Impacts

Impact To-Date

The project has generated more than \$900,000 for the five Maasai communities. It has enhanced water security for local people and supported several development projects, including health clinics and schools.

Projected Longer-Term Impact

The project is built upon land use plans and secure community land tenure. The adherence to the land use plans has resulted in secure access to water sources and seasonal grazing for livestock. Livestock is highly valued by the Maasai and an important element in their social structure. Year-round access to water and grazing enables the Maasai to practise their traditional pastoralist lifestyle that relies on rotational grazing in accordance with the season - a practice known as Ronjo. The protection of this ecosystem also enhances connectivity for the southern part of the world renowned Tarangire-Manyara ecosystem. Already five other WMAs in southern Tanzania have taken steps to develop REDD+ programs on a similar model to Makame, and other WMAs could develop similar programs. Currently Tanzania's 19 WMAs cover 6.2 million hectares of land, and Tanzania's community-managed lands actually contain more species of animal than the nationally protected areas.



How REDD+ Helped Maasai Communities Kick Out Poachers and Take Control of their Ancestral Lands

Supuk Olekao was born in a Maasai community in northern Tanzania. "Our people used savannah land to graze their cattle, and also to get natural medicine from the trees," he says. The grass and scrublands that Olekao called home also sustained giraffe, elephants, lions, wild dogs, buffalo and antelope—but increasingly poachers were thinning out the herds. In 2010, ivory poachers killed elephants for the first time. Supuk's village joined four neighboring Maasai villages to form an official Wildlife Management Area (WMA) to protect their natural resources and traditional way of life. The communities struggled to generate enough revenue from tourism, however, to effectively patrol more than 360,000 hectares of land.

In recent years, however, poaching has fallen 93 percent in the Makame WMA—a turnaround that Olekao credits to projects they have funded through the carbon market. In 2016, the Makame WMA entered a partnership with the company Carbon Tanzania to implement a grazing plan, which would prevent the conversion of wild savannah into pasture and farmland. The avoided deforestation generates carbon credits, which are verified by Verra and sold to companies seeking to counterbalance their annual unabated greenhouse gas emissions. The Makame WMA uses the carbon revenue to pay an anti-poaching unit and fund development projects in all five Maasai communities. "This money helps the communities directly and ensures that their land is protected," says Olekao, who works today as the manager of the Makame WMA.

The Makame Maasai communities began looking into ecosystem services after noticing carbon projects taking off in other parts of Tanzania. Carbon Tanzania was also looking to expand into new parts of the country after establishing a successful REDD+ project called the Yaeda Valley REDD project. "We wanted to stick to our principles, which is working in areas outside of the big national protected areas; areas that have clear local land tenure held by an indigenous community; and areas the community is struggling to protect because of external forces," says Jo Anderson, the co-founder and director of sales and finance of Carbon Tanzania.



Supuk Olekao
Manager of Makame
WMA and member of
the Maasai community

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The Makame WMA met all those criteria. David Beroff, Carbon Tanzania's director of operations, joined the company as the contract was being written and oversaw the production of Makame's first carbon credits in 2020. Beroff had come to Tanzania in 2015 as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Kilimanjaro region. "I would get called to the government meeting every week out of respect, as a foreigner in the village," he says, "and every week the meeting was the same."



11 SDGs
contributed
to by the
project



93%
reduction
in poaching



5
critically
endangered
and endangered
species
protected



14,900
people
directly
benefit

**Follow the
progress**





They knew what their problems were and they knew exactly how to fix them, but they had no money.” Projects like Makame could give communities the resources to fix their problems. Carbon Tanzania spent more than a year designing the project with the Maasai communities and getting their consent.

The Makame WMA earn more than 60 percent of the revenue from every carbon credit. They set aside 15 percent of the money they receive to subsidize the school fees of students across the WMA. Another 40 percent of the revenue is divided evenly between the five Maasai communities to spend as they see fit. “Each village has its own priorities, and they implement a plan accordingly,” Olekao says. The communities decide democratically in meetings how to spend their share of the carbon revenue. They have used the money to build classrooms, teacher housing, village offices, health clinics and toilets. They also help households pay medical bills.



Jo Anderson
Co-founder and
Director of Sales
and Finance
Carbon Tanzania

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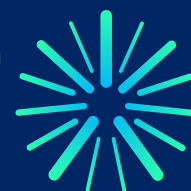
The Makame WMA uses another 15 percent of the carbon revenue to pay the salaries of 27 village game scouts. The scouts use a smartphone app to track poaching and land encroachments in the project area; and monitor wildlife populations, which include more than 40 types of mammal and 10 endangered species. The WMA also passes on some of its revenues to the district government to assist in law enforcement and prosecute poachers.



David Beroff
Director of
Operations
Carbon Tanzania

They knew what their problems were and they knew exactly how to fix them, but they had no money.

Makame’s success has earned attention from other Wildlife Management Areas, five of which have started to develop REDD+ programs on a similar model. In total, the country’s 19 WMAs cover more than 6 million hectares and could be havens for biodiversity: more animal species actually live on Tanzania’s community-managed lands than in its national parks. As poaching has plummeted in Makame, wildlife has thrived—and tourists are starting to discover its natural beauty. The Makame WMA has signed two long-term deals with safari operators. “You can see that we have a lot of animals,” Olekao says. “That’s why investors came to Makame WMA.”



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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 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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