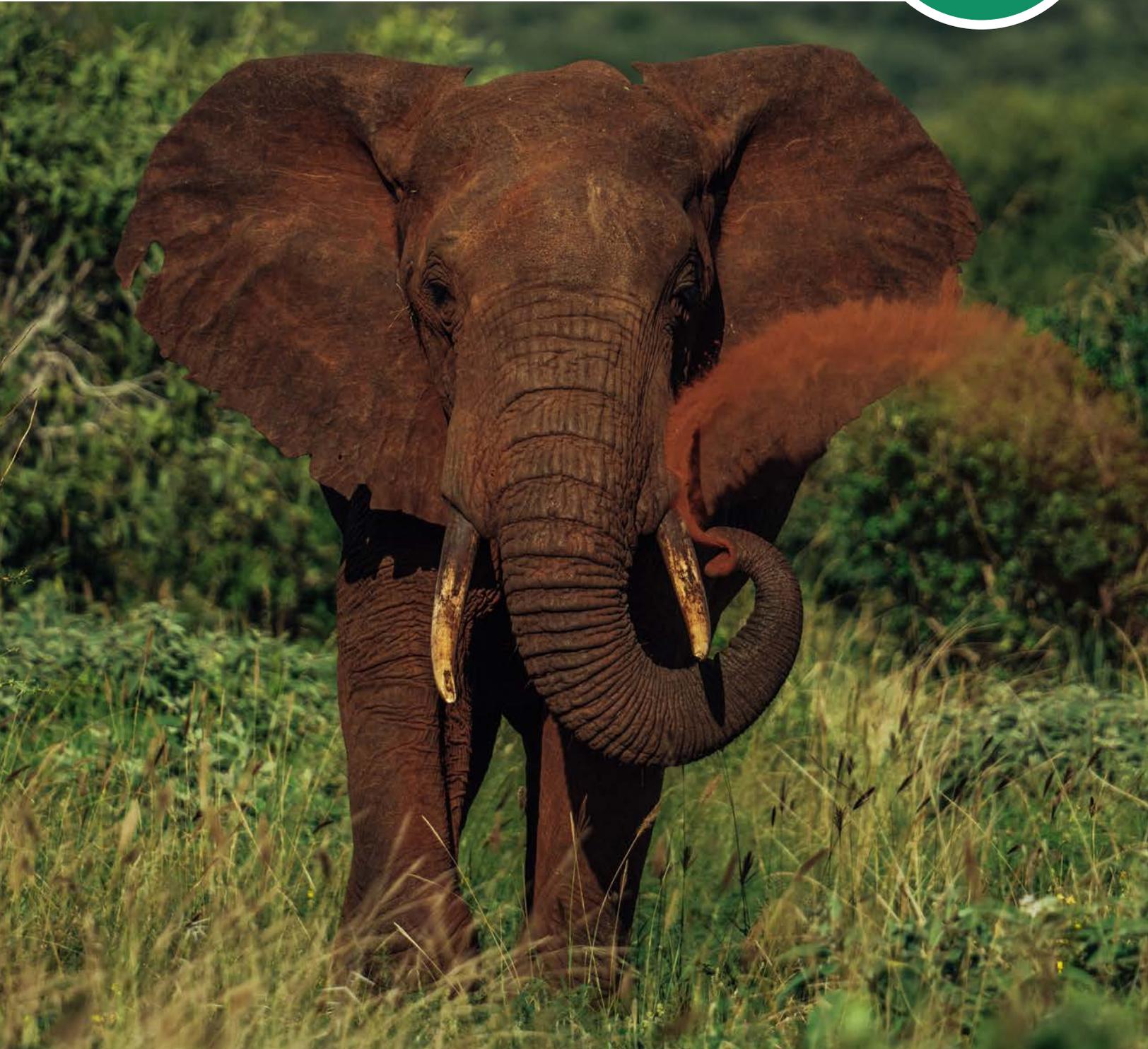


Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project **Impact Report**

Q1-Q2
2021



**EVER
LAND**

**WILDLIFE
WORKS** 

Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project

Location: **Kenya**

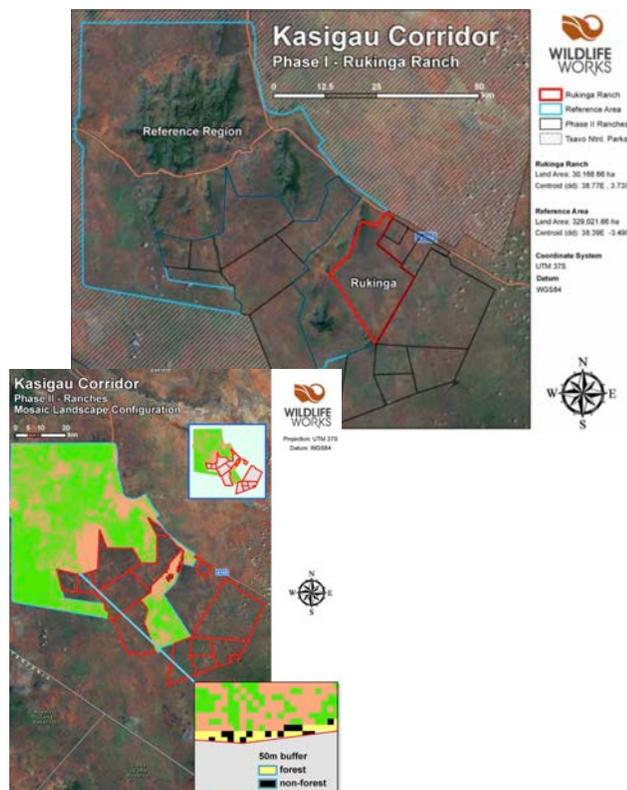
Developer: **Wildlife Works**

Key Partners: **Local landowners**

Standards: **VCS, CCB**

A flagship REDD+ project in full stride

Small and large-scale projects are continuing to bring transformative benefits to communities throughout the project area during the first half of 2021, touching the lives of the entire community. Through the Carbon Trust and Locational Carbon Committees, large investments in water projects have been made and significant developments in community income generation activities have continued to prosper, having a meaningful, positive impact on community livelihoods. While these activities continue to flourish, the lack of rain and COVID-priorities are straining resources. These pressures have resulted in competition for resources and increased human-wildlife conflict, livestock incursions and poaching. The project team is working to resolve these challenges through focused community engagement, an illustration of the dynamic, adaptive management capacity that strong REDD+ projects can bring to support forest communities.



13,273,958 tonnes of CO2 emissions avoided to date
1,477,465 tonnes of CO2 emissions avoided per year

About the Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project

The Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project, a pioneer in wildlife conservation, protects over 200,000 hectares of dryland forest with over 11,000 wild elephants that live in this ecosystem (2000+ of those elephants call Rukinga their permanent home). The project provides social programs that impact 120,000 people and provides the local community of the Kasigau Corridor region with long-term jobs that replace unsustainable sources of income such as poaching, subsistence agriculture and illegal tree harvesting.

In an area where wildlife and human survival were at odds, the project has created a market-driven solution to wildlife conservation through an expansive community-led, community-based conservation model, with profound and lasting impact.



Investing in community water projects

Access to clean water continues to be a high priority for the Kasigau Corridor REDD+ project communities. Water projects approved by the Locational Carbon Committees (LCC) in late 2020 were installed in the first half of 2021. Old water pipelines installed in the 1950s and 1960s by the National Government had significant leaks and rust, which made it difficult for the community to get a consistent supply of water.

Highlights of recently completed water projects include:

- ✓ Water pipes covering 14.86 kilometers were fixed in Rukanga, Jora, Kiteghe, Bungule, Kirongwe and Makwasinyi villages.
- ✓ Water pipes covering 7.41 kilometres were fixed in Kwaseghera and Mwajika Teri villages in Sagalla location.
- ✓ 6 x 10,000 water tanks and gutters were installed in Itinyi Primary, Bondeni ECD and Miasenyi Primary School.

Having reliable and accessible infrastructure that provides access to water is crucial for sanitation, and reducing the time and cost associated with bringing water from sources that can often be miles away. When there is no access to water storage in schools' students must bring their own supply. Inevitably, this leads to poor sanitation and student fatigue.

These projects are financed during the LCC project selection process and implemented by contractors after the tendering and approval process. The projects are overseen by the Wildlife Works Carbon Trust team and Community Based Organization (CBO) Project Managers, ensuring successful project delivery and sound financial governance.



Development within community income generation activities



The Hadithi Crafts Support Group had a productive first half of the year. They purchased over 15 million shillings worth of crafts predominantly through baskets and expect to have the same amount of purchases throughout the rest of the year. Expenditure on crafts for Q1+Q2 2020 (COVID caused closure for 1 month) was 5,024,980 KSh, so it essentially tripled.

The CBO, with funding from the Rukinga CSR fund (a fund created by the Rukinga Ranch through its carbon income), continued metal work training and developing products with Makwasinyi youth. In June 2021, Hadithi launched their first direct-to-consumer e-commerce offering on the Hadithi Line website. This has the potential to generate sales that otherwise would not have been possible.

Greater diversity in ways to generate income means more resilience against market fluctuations in the future. Increased income through alternative livelihoods also means less reliance on charcoal production and bush meat.

This has been achieved by the now six-woman led Hadithi team, backed by the Rukinga CSR funds and with assistance from the Solid Crafts and Wildlife Works teams.



Connecting Bughuta Women's Group agriculture project to a water point



The Bughuta Women's group plot of land was connected to a main water source from the dispensary. This project will bring clean water closer to the neighborhood and save the community, especially women and young children, from having to travel far distances to fetch water.

The group will be implementing water conservation techniques learned from the Wildlife Works demonstration unit to grow vegetables that they can sell or use for their own personal consumption. The group will also have the opportunity to sell water to their neighbors and earn additional income.

The project was assisted by the Wildlife Works greenhouse team and funded through the Rukinga CSR fund.





Challenges & Opportunities

Addressing human-wildlife conflict in hotspot areas

Due to low rainfall during the most recent rainy season, competition for resources has intensified. Where no large-scale fencing is in place there have been invasions by elephants at agribusiness projects that have set back farming progress the community has been making. The elephants have also destroyed some tree plots planted by Wildlife Works.

Community support for and tolerance of wildlife within the forest protection project is key, and incidents of farm invasions in hotspot areas have the potential to lead to retaliations by the community.

The project's security team has placed a permanent team at Kasigau to improve the response rates to incidents. Efforts have been made through community engagement and additional informants to increase the reporting issues and hotspots as a way to better manage the human-wildlife conflict. Efforts include visiting communities and schools affected by human-wildlife conflict incidents to assess the situation and provide recommendations for how to successfully manage the conflict. The teams are also reinforcing fences and replacing damaged trees with new seedlings.

Research conducted with Earthwatch on Kasaine fences and climate-smart agriculture is now being used to create a handbook and a series of workshops on co-existing with elephants. The roll out of workshops has been delayed due to COVID restriction, but the manual will be distributed later this year.



Improving security and best practices for ranch management



Ranch managers are facing numerous challenges that the project is helping to address. Due to increased competition for resources such as water and grass, some ranches have fenced grassy areas and water points to safeguard them for their cattle. This has led to conflict with wildlife, not only with the resources being unavailable to them, but also with the structures themselves. Fire is another challenge. With a prolonged dry season, there is an increased threat of fires, and fire is still being used by herders as a deterrent at water sources.

The Wildlife Works team is continuing engagement with ranch management to maintain roads and put in firebreaks in key areas where access for fire is an issue. They are working with the Kenya Wildlife Service and National Environmental Management Authority to ensure that education on proper planning and procedure is carried out in the case of fencing, especially of any resources. The project is also holding conversations with ranch management on water safeguarding and herder behavior and safety. In the case of fire, ranches are investing in firefighting equipment, and joint training for firefighting is being planned. WWF has provided a grader to Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association (TTWCA), and they are scheduling its use throughout the county over the coming months for road improvement and firebreaks.

Ongoing security and best-practice management of ranches is key for the project's sustainability and important for the best use of Wildlife Works resources.



Engaging youth through football and job opportunities to resolve conflict



Due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, many youth and community members have been stuck at home without work or income. This has led to an increase in poaching and livestock incursions as well as charcoal burning in the Magwede, Sasenyi and Dimbwini communities. There has also been an increase in illegal movement of livestock into the project area, with other illegal activities occurring alongside.

To address these challenges, the project has engaged youth in the Sasenyi area with a friendly football match between the Wildlife Works Carbon team and the Sasenyi Youth team. It was a great opportunity to interact and discuss emerging issues, and the project has agreed to continue with frequent engagements for the purpose of resolving any arising conflicts.

Additionally, through CSR funding by Rukinga ranch, a leather tanning training workshop is being scheduled through Hadithi with the Magwede Self Help Group. The introduction of leather tanning will create some jobs for the group's members with continued craft support from sales through Hadithi. This will help reduce deforestation pressure in the area and reduce human-wildlife conflict.

