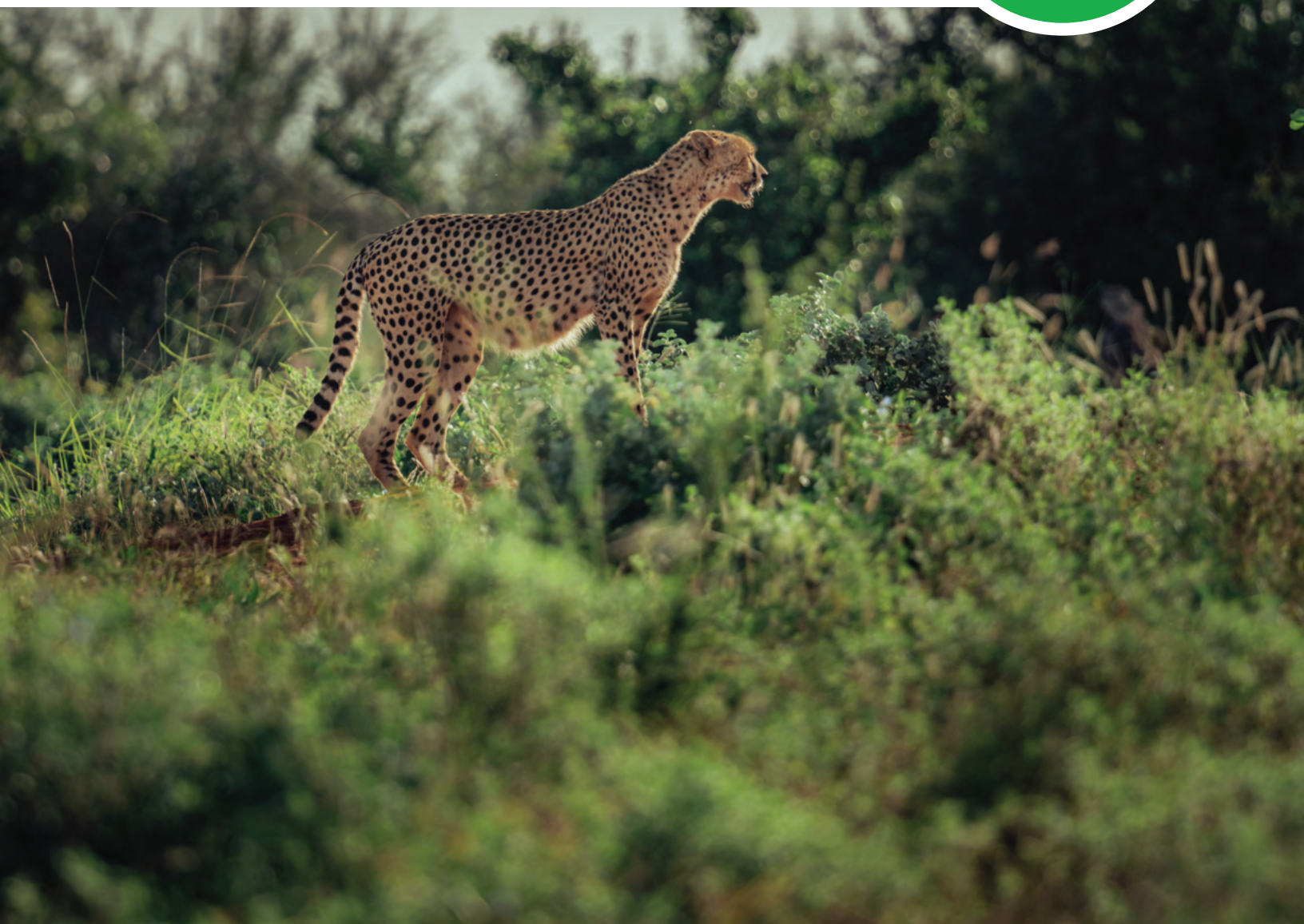


# Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project **Impact Report**

**Q3-Q4  
2021**



**EVER  
LAND**

**WILDLIFE  
WORKS**



# Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project

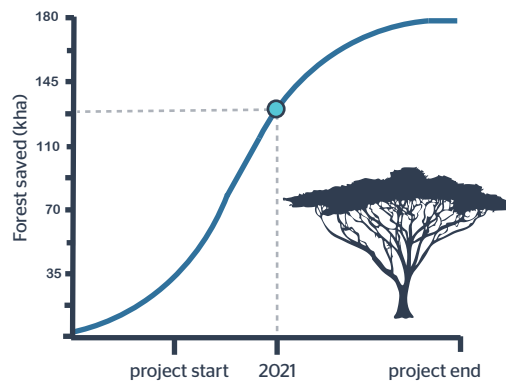
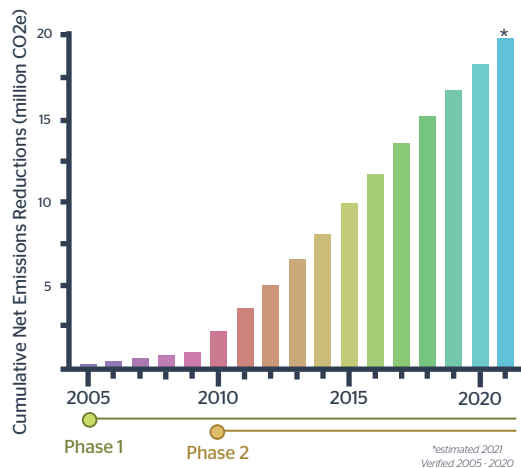
📍 Kenya

EVER  
LAND

**Developer:** Wildlife Works  
**Key Partners:** Local landowners  
**Standards:** VCS, CCB

## Half year summary

The Kasigau corridor project continues to expand healthcare and education spending, with the implementation of 3 novel health education pilot projects, the distribution of covid supplies as well as building, renovating and equipping schools within the project zone. A new cohort of enthusiastic rangers has been recruited and trained alongside a new Senior Research Scientist, Dr Geoffrey Mwangi Wambugu, who has joined the team. A widespread drought has challenged food security, but the communities remain resilient in their drive to continue the greenhouse enterprise.



### IUCN Red List species protected



## About the Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project

The Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project, a pioneer in wildlife conservation, protects over 200,000-ha of dryland forest with over 11,000 wild elephants that live in this ecosystem. In an area where wildlife and human survival were at odds, 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.

**14,829,689** tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions avoided to date





# Impact Highlights

## Expansion of health activities and partnerships to reach Kenyan youth

Historically, water and education have been the focus of community benefit sharing spending, with health expenditures being concentrated on the development of new healthcare facilities and related infrastructure. However, based on discussions with Education Officers from the Ministry of Health, it's become apparent that teenage pregnancies as well as cases of drug abuse in young people have become major challenges facing schools during the pandemic. To address these challenges, three new programs have been put in place to educate students on various aspects of health.

A pilot initiative was rolled out in 10 primary schools across a 12 week period, which combined the gender-inclusive sport of volleyball with reproductive health education. This afterschool program reached over 1,200 students, was implemented by a team of 6 local volunteers and focused on a variety of subjects including gender-based violence, female health, STIs and HIV. A second phase of this program is set to launch in the coming months, focussed on an older cohort of children in their mid-teens.

Implemented by Wildlife Works Staff through a partnership with the Elimisha Community Based Organization (CBO), 9 sexual and reproductive health workshops were implemented over the last two quarters. These sessions reached nearly 300 people; 72% of whom were female.

Another initiative was piloted in collaboration with CHASE Africa, a charity which provides high quality health education and mobile clinics in rural communities. Fifteen Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) were trained in Marungu to provide the community with health and family planning information through regular outreach activities. Initial baseline surveys were conducted to understand the benchmark health awareness of community members and will be used to estimate the effectiveness of the program after a 3-month period. Following the initial trial period, the program will be improved and expanded to a wider area.





## Communities benefiting from LCC expenditures

The pandemic has made the process of decision making within the Locational Carbon Committee (LCC) context very challenging over the past year. Due to covid restrictions, LCCs have had to meet in smaller numbers, with many more sessions required to make decisions on funding allocation than in normal conditions. Despite these challenges, a number of new projects were completed in Q3 and Q4 of 2021 through community expenditure focussed on school infrastructure, bursaries and covid supplies.

### School infrastructure and bursaries:

- ✓ 22 classrooms, 4 office blocks, 2 lavatories and a septic tank were renovated
- ✓ 2 new classrooms, 4 lavatories, and a kitchen was constructed, and 350 desks were distributed across 5 schools
- ✓ 5,218 students received bursaries totalling almost 30 million Kenya shillings (275,000 USD)

### Covid supplies:

- ✓ 8,278 face masks, 122 buckets and 669 litres of liquid soap were distributed across secondary schools, primary schools and vocational training centres in Sagalla

This continued targeted expenditure has positively impacted community morale and buy-in to the REDD+ program. As community members continue to benefit from the benefits sharing facilitated through the LLC process, more awareness of the funding distribution has spread across the project area. As a result, more people have been encouraged to participate, providing new ideas for funding outside of usual funding ideas - including the provision of supplies for covid and the expansion of youth programs.



Students at Marungu Secondary School accepting benefits sharing cheque for new school infrastructure projects and bursaries



Lazarus Vigodi Ighacho, Wildlife Works' Assistant Workshop Administrator working to distribute buckets, soap, and facemasks as a humanitarian response to COVID-19 pandemic outbreak







## New recruit of Rangers and a Senior Research Scientist join the Wildlife Works family



The Kasigau enforcement program has been expanded with the recruitment of 42 new security guards and rangers in Q3 and Q4 of 2021, 4 of whom were women. This recent round of ranger recruitment drew a significant amount of attention; the HR department received far more applications than the number of positions available. Most of the applicants were previously unemployed or employed through part-time casual businesses (e.g. motorbike delivery services), so they are very excited about the prospect of successfully securing a full-time position with the project.

As part of the application process, the potential recruits undergo a rigorous fitness assessment which many of them train for ahead of time. All of the successful applicants were recruited locally from Taita Taveta county; they started their initial training in November and were positioned at their posts by the middle of December.



Also joining the Wildlife Works team in November is Dr Geoffrey Mwangi Wambugu, who was a Lecturer for 8 years at Karatina University with research focussing on ecology in the East African Region. As the new Senior Research Scientist, Geoffrey will be leading the Biodiversity & Social Monitoring aspect of the Kasigau project as Dr Mwangi Githiru moves into a Regional role.



Dr Mwangi (right) with the Biodiversity team from right Simon Kasaine, and Benard Amakobe (centre)





# Challenges & Opportunities

## Widespread drought puts a strain on wildlife and food security in the project area

Kenya is home to two separate rainy seasons - occurring between March to May and October to December each year. Due to the impacts of climate change, Kenya has been experiencing drastic changes to the rainfall frequency, season length and regularity of rain each year - resulting in a significant impact on the country's rain-fed agriculture. In the Kasigau corridor, 400-600mm of rain is expected during the October - December rainy season, but the amount and timing of rainfall has become very erratic in recent years. In 2021, the area had not seen rain for 11 months. When the rainfall finally arrived, it was extremely limited - with only 200mm falling over the season, half of the minimum amount expected resulting in widespread drought. This was one of the most devastating droughts many community members had seen in their lifetime.

This drought left devastation in its path - leading to the death of wildlife and livestock across the project zone and massive stress to vegetation. To alleviate the stress on wildlife, the project installed numerous water sources (solar-powered boreholes) along main roads to provide roaming animals with drinking water. This is particularly important to limit the number of elephants encroaching on villages in search of water and food. While these efforts have helped, they haven't eliminated the infiltration of elephants into the villages - conflicts have resulted in the destruction of fences and crops, putting additional stress onto the agricultural ventures of the community.

Despite the drought and human-elephant conflicts, the project was still able to plant 17,636 indigenous tree seedlings, creating shade over plants to stabilise the vegetation. Additional mulching has also been distributed across the soil to reduce erosion and loss of soil nutrients. Community groups were hosted at demonstration sites to teach them about new agricultural techniques, the importance of planting shade trees, nursery management and organic vegetable production. Specific attention was placed on discussing the need to stop slash and burn agriculture and retain existing trees. For further notes on the recovery process for Community Greenhouse, please see the Q3 Spotlight report.







## Expansion of Hadithi craft marketing will boost sales

Hadithi has grown consistently since it was established - in terms of the groups it works with, the diversity of crafts purchased and sold, as well as with the support it lends to its member groups. However, during the second half of 2021, there was a slight dip in the number of baskets sold as a result of the pandemic economic slowdown, which created a build up of stock at the Hadithi HQ. This has resulted in a minor reduction of cash flow, a reduction in workspace, and some risk to stock from storage challenges. Despite this challenging period, the venture has still grown over the last 6 years, with a near tripling of the number of supported groups and female artisans.



The Hadithi venture has garnered support from the NEST business accelerator program, which is a nonprofit that supports the scaling of high-potential artisan social enterprises around the world. NEST will assist with marketing. It is expected that this investment in new marketing will improve basket sales within the coming year, overcoming the minor slowdown in the second half of 2021. To prepare for the continued growth, the Hadithi team have carried out a full stock inventory, and are also implementing a barcode system to assist with tracking stock to streamline purchasing and selling needs.

Continuing the trajectory of growth for Hadithi is important for groups to be consistently engaged and earning an income, thereby reducing reliance on income from farming, charcoal and bushmeat.

