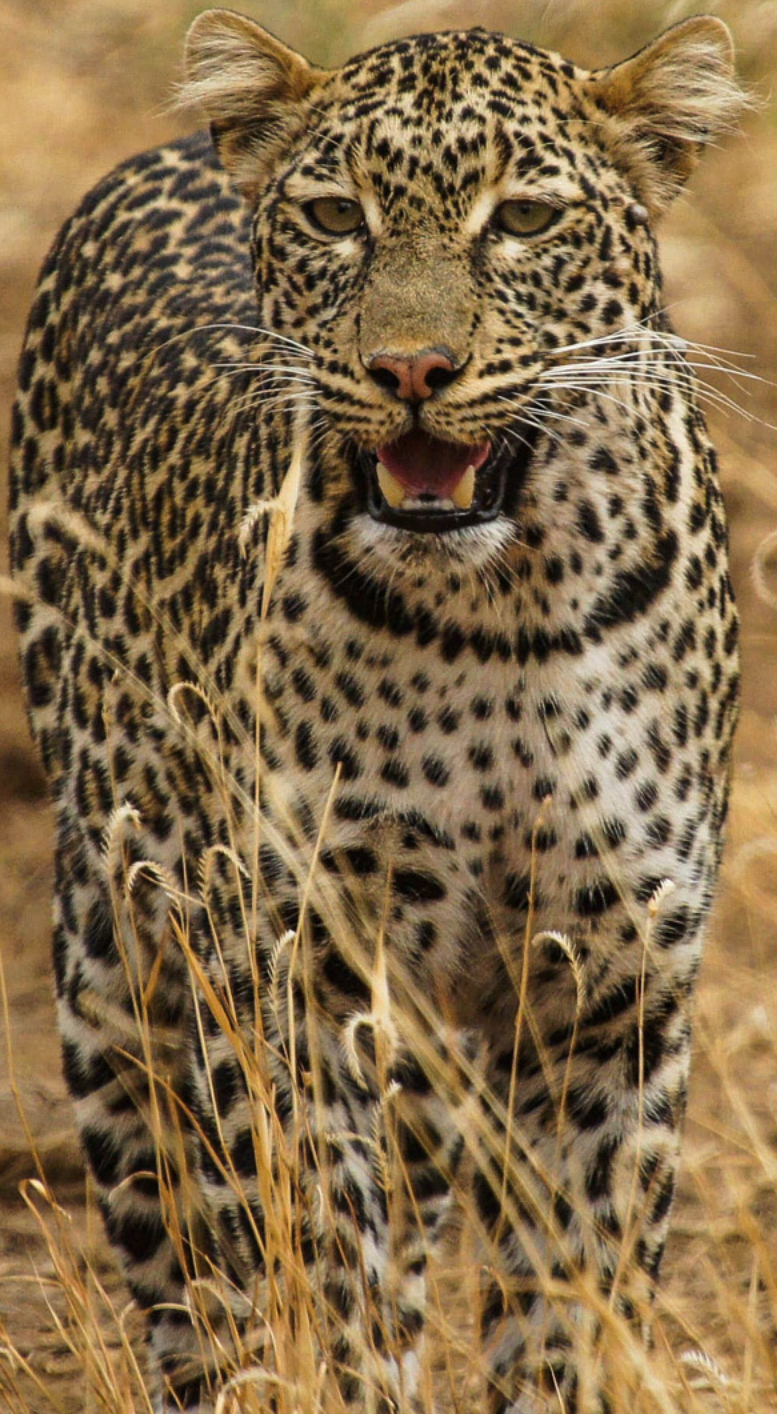


EVER
LAND

Chyulu Hills REDD+
Carbon Project

Impact Report Q4 2019

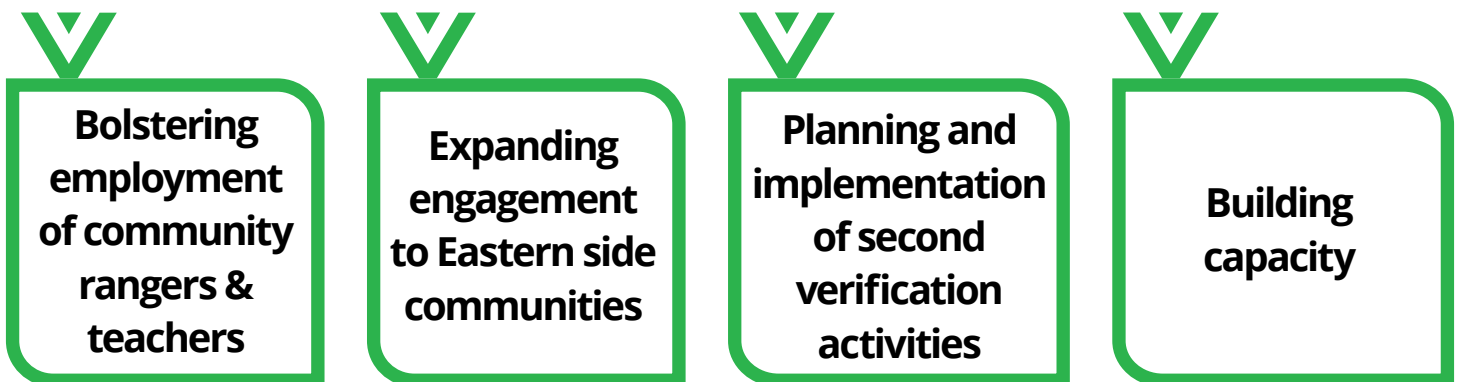


Q4 2019 Summary



Strengthening support to the community — providing access to education, health and livelihoods development and ongoing protection of the forest and wildlife.

This past quarter has focused on the development and implementation of an upgraded Social Benefit Impact Assessment monitoring system and community-led consultations to identify priority needs and the application of a collaborative and transparent benefit sharing model to design a full suite of project activities to be undertaken with Gucci funds.



Highlights



Bolstering employment of community rangers & teachers

24 Rangers and 5 Teachers

The REDD+ project is making it possible to hire additional rangers and teachers.

Poverty drives the unsustainable use of environmental resources. Rangers are utilized for direct forest, habitat and wildlife protection, and to act as community liaisons and gather information. They reduce deforestation and poaching and provide constant information-sharing and engagement with the community.

Employment of teachers provides direct employment and educates the next generation to improve lifetime opportunities and to understand the importance of protecting their natural resources.





Expanding engagement to Eastern side communities

Outreach to 12 communities

Engagement of community-led outreach that allows communities to set their own priorities for the investment of REDD+ funds.

The communities on the eastern side of the REDD+ project area have long been underserved in terms of receiving benefits related to protecting the Chyulu forest.

The project has expanded outreach to these communities to identify their priorities for support. Several initiatives were discussed, including tree planting and bee keeping projects. The communities have now created a self-appointed committee to develop proposals for the most effective use of REDD+ funds and they are now utilizing smart phone technology like WhatsApp groups to streamline communication with the REDD+ Project Office.





Planning and implementation of second verification activities

Upgraded SBIA Survey Analysis Methodologies & Data Collection

Monitoring the impact of the REDD+ project on communities is a critical part of the ongoing verification process and an important adaptive management tool.

The project has updated the survey methods with a smart phone application and cloud-based backup and data storage as a cutting-edge refinement to their previous paper-based process. Questionnaires to document community attitudes and perceptions towards the project have been re-designed using state of the art social survey methodologies in a partnership with Oxford University.





Building capacity

4 laptops to equip community representatives on the REDD+ Trust Board 1 new 4-wheel drive vehicle.

Laptop computers allow the REDD+ board representatives from the communities to improve their capacity to become fully effective Board members. The project is providing training in computer skills and board governance. The new vehicle supports all REDD+ project management and implementation activities.



Challenges & Opportunities



Mitigating human-wildlife conflict

Both iconic and threatened species – including elephant, cheetah and lion – either live full-time in the project area or use it as a critical migration corridor between the Tsavo West, Amboseli and Chyulu Hills National Parks. Multiple threats, including poaching, overgrazing and land conversion, have the potential to decimate the value of this communally Maasai- owned land.

How the project is addressing the challenge:

Project partner's programs compensate livestock herders for losses to wildlife predation. These programs encourage responsible livestock husbandry practices in a wildlife and predator-rich environment through a system that rewards responsibility on a sliding scale of negligence vs. non negligence. The compensation funds are paid out to claimants in exchange for full protection of wild predators throughout the project area. There has been a nearly 80% decrease in poaching since 2013 and almost 90% decrease in predator poisoning incidents since 2015.



Livelihoods development for women

Women are identified as the primary targets of livelihood support, Maasai women tend to be responsible for non-husbandry activities, and experience shows that increasing income for these women results in the most significant benefits for household well-being.

The project supports women to form groups as a foundation for learning and cooperative income generation activities.

Current activities include jewellery-making, grass seed bank management, education in financial literacy and resiliency planning, as well as additional livelihood activities where a market opportunity exists, such as through honey production. The project is creating market opportunities for supply chain development and implementing best practice techniques for honey processing. Women's groups have also demonstrated that they can generate significant income from grass seed production.





Rangeland restoration

Major threats to parts of the project area include expansion of subsistence agriculture and settlement, as well as unsustainable exploitive practices, such as charcoal burning and timber harvesting, leading to deforestation.

How the project is addressing the challenge:

A pilot project is demonstrating the feasibility of rangeland restoration through the digging of semi-circular bunds to increase the retention of water to allow natural re-vegetation. 90,000 bunds, restoring 885 hectares of once degraded land, were dug, providing employment for local people. Upscaling and expansion of the program, in conjunction with improved livestock grazing management is now underway.

Women's groups have developed grass seed banks. These re-greened, formerly degraded areas have created an alternative source of income for the women through the harvesting of grass seeds and grasses while also restoring rangelands and tree growth.





Impacts over time



Forest

1,622 km patrolled in conservancies

24 REDD+ rangers to patrol forests

24 arrests for habitat destruction

1 million acres protected area



Wildlife

Over 300 rangers

120,430 km patrolled

57 wildlife-related arrests

Zero elephant mortalities

8 Lion retaliatory hunts prevented

Approx \$137,000 compensation for depredation incidents to herders



Community

25 schools supported

Over 320 scholarships awarded

Over 9,000 students supported

79 teacher's salaries paid

13 women's groups supported



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One forest at a time**

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