

# Q2 2020

## Chyulu Hills REDD+ Project **Impact Report**



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## Q2 2020 Summary

# Bolstering security, building infrastructure and ongoing investment into employment and education

This past quarter has been focused on the ongoing implementation of critical forest and wildlife protection initiatives and community programs in education and conservation. Other significant activities include the issuance and delivery of new equipment and supplies and a vehicle to enhance the progress of project related activities. The project continued to apply its collaborative and transparent benefit sharing model to design a holistic suite of project activities alongside the local communities.



**New vehicle and equipment to bolster security and protection capacity on Chyulu Hills National Park border**

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**New infrastructure for schools and water supply**

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**Continued Employment of Rangers, New Fire Fighting Equipment & Educational Bursaries**

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**Survey of new road and fire break in Chyulu Hills National Park**



## New vehicle and equipment to bolster security and protection capacity on Chyulu Hills National Park border

The REDD+ project has supported the acquisition of a new four-wheel drive vehicle, huts and supplies and equipment to deploy national park rangers on the northern border of Chyulu Hills National Park.

Over recent years there has been increasing settlement by outside groups on the northern border of the Chyulu Hills National Park and there has been a lack of capacity of the Kenya Wildlife Service to deploy rangers to this relatively remote area. The REDD+ funding has provided the Kenya Wildlife Service with a new Toyota Land Cruiser, ranger accommodation, equipment and supplies to improve protection of this area and its wildlife.



## Highlights





## New infrastructure for schools and water supply

The communities represented through the Group Ranch members of the Chyulu Hills Conservation Trust continue to put in place effective and inclusive governance processes to determine priorities for utilizing carbon revenues. The project continues to support each Group Ranch in developing better ways to engage directly with their communities in order to improve communications and decision making. In this quarter, the communities have made significant strides and have collectively determined to make significant investments in their schools and water infrastructure.

During this past quarter, the REDD+ project has provided much needed ancillary infrastructure for 5 schools. This encompassed:

- ✔ New school fencing for Samai Primary School for added safeguarding, security, and protection from dangerous wildlife. This school is in an elephant corridor, so elephant-proof fencing represents an urgent need for the school as elephants have destroyed past fences with ease.
- ✔ New staff quarters for the teachers of Marlal Primary School. Including 3 houses with 2 rooms in each house.
- ✔ New boys and girls latrine for Olorika Primary School, including a two-door latrine with urinal.
- ✔ New boys and girls latrine for Nolasiti Primary School, including a two-door latrine with hand-washing station.
- ✔ New renovations to the Moilo Primary School, including new wiring and sockets for new lights to one classroom, a teacher's headquarters, staff quarters and a security light.
- ✔ Repairs to the Inkisanjani Red Cross Project borehole to provide water to the local community. Work has included installation of solar power panels and an electric pump motor.

## Continued employment of rangers & new firefighting equipment and training

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At least 400 rangers in total are employed to safeguard the Chyulu Hills, an important source of local employment that also creates ambassadors within the community for conservation and the REDD+ project.

Because of financing provided by REDD+, ranger employment remains secure. As a result, the REDD+ project is standing out as an important case study in Kenya: Over the past few months, the project has distributed just over \$1M, enabling many constructive activities to take place while much of the country is at a standstill. Conservation projects elsewhere in Kenya have been scrambling to secure their operations due to the total loss of ecotourism revenue. The project is showcasing a more sustainable financing model to provide resilience against shocks such as COVID.

All the partners in the project have identified the urgent need to improve ranger training in firefighting, and to provide rangers with firefighting equipment. This training is of immediate need given the significant number of wildfires in the landscape during this dry season. 80-90 rangers are currently receiving new training modules. New firefighting equipment is also being provided, including sand buckets, rakes, forked jembes, jerry cans for carrying water, and fire flaps beaters.

Additionally, the REDD+ project is funding four wildlife rangers and five rangers for protecting water supplies as part of the ranger force deployed by Big Life.

The rangers have been placed in a critical area that is vulnerable to degradation from increased levels of illegal wood harvesting, charcoal burning and illegal fires. The rangers provide direct forest, habitat and wildlife protection, gather information and act as community liaisons. The employment of water rangers also ensures the security of water pipelines and supply infrastructure.



## New road and firebreak on the eastern side of Chyulu Hills National Park

The David Sheldrick Trust, working with the Kenya Wildlife Service, has been surveying the alignment for a new road along the eastern side of Chyulu Hills National Park. The road will be 22km long. REDD+ funding is paying for the surveying and construction of the road.

The road will provide improved access along the eastern side of the national park and project area for patrolling the park and for firefighting. The road will also act as an important fire break that will help reduce the risk of lower elevation fires spreading to the cloud forest. In the long term, the road will potentially provide infrastructure for visitors coming to Chyulu Hills national park.





# Persevering through the realities of life during COVID-19

Engaging the community in new ways, dealing with school closures and mitigating human-wildlife conflict have been among the most significant challenges faced by the project during the past quarter. These challenges have served as a catalyst and opportunity to innovate and think outside the box.



## Challenges

### Engaging the community during Covid-19

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#### Education and school closures

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#### Mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts



## Engaging the community during Covid-19

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The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has proved to be a challenge in implementing most of the project activities, especially those that involve large gatherings or outreaches. The numbers in the local county have been steadily rising and this has posed a challenge to the project.

The project has consistently been helping the community to understand how the benefits they receive from conservation-driven programs are related to their role in safeguarding the environment. However, during this pandemic it has become challenging to engage the local communities because of the restrictions enforced by the Government of Kenya.

The social distancing directive has led to most stakeholders requesting their staff to work from home, which has also had an impact on some of the plans regarding the project - including the procurement of firefighting equipment, livelihood outreaches, and quarterly ranger meetings. The repairs and construction of water points have also been delayed due to the Covid guidelines, as these activities require close physical interactions.

With this in mind, the project has been forced to think outside the box with alternative ways of operating during these trying times. The project team has explored a number of innovative options to keep momentum while adhering to restrictions, including having people work in shifts to ensure that the project deliverables are achieved within the project period, and using online platforms to hold meetings and important discussions.





## Education and school closures

The REDD+ project funds school bursaries throughout the project areas. Unfortunately, the awarding of these bursaries has been put on hold due to the closure of schools by government directive. Schools won't open until next year at the earliest, and the project is working hard to develop new initiatives that will help keep the young minds and bodies of this community stimulated and engaged during this unprecedented and idle time. For example, on Environment Day the project helped to organize a community clean-up day that involved numerous members of the project area communities including children.



## Mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts and poaching

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Inevitably, community members have suffered economic losses as a result of pandemic mitigation measures such as travel restrictions and closure of markets. This has increased the incentive for bush meat poaching. At the same time the project has had to reduce the activities of its rangers. This has resulted in some losses of wildlife due to poaching and an increase in crop raiding by elephants.

The capacity of the programme for compensating for livestock losses due to wildlife predators has also been reduced due to restrictions related to COVID guidelines.

Partners are doing what they can through their ranger forces and teams on the ground to not only work with the community but also to remain one step ahead of suspected poachers and to make arrests and remain diligent in their daily patrols.

As a result of the work of the project, many community members see and understand the long-term benefits that conservation provides, leading to less pressure than there would be potentially.





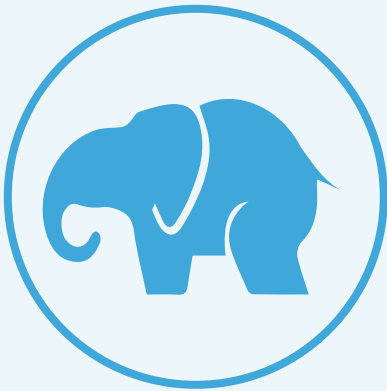
## Forest Impacts



- ✓ Approximately **1000** new seedlings planted in tree nursery
- ✓ **33** REDD+ rangers to patrol forests
- ✓ **44** arrests for habitat destruction
- ✓ **1 million** acres protected area



## Wildlife Impacts



- ✓ Over **400** rangers employed
- ✓ **116,867** km patrolled
- ✓ **70** wildlife-related arrests
- ✓ **5** elephant mortalities
- ✓ **13** Lion & elephant retaliatory hunts prevented
- ✓ Approx **\$46,000** compensation for depredation incidents to herders



# Impact Over Time

## Community Impacts



- ✓ **25** schools supported
- ✓ Over **300** scholarships awarded
- ✓ Over **9,000** students supported
- ✓ **79** teacher's salaries paid
- ✓ **13** women's groups supported
- ✓ Over **18,000** community members reached who received information on COVID prevention



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