

# Impact Spotlight

Chyulu Hills REDD+ Project  
Q3 2022

EVER  
LAND

CONSERVATION  
INTERNATIONAL





## Bee-Keeping

Beekeeping is an important initiative at the Chyulu Hill's REDD+ Project, offering a diversified livelihood opportunity in honey production for local community members living in the project zone. Through bee-keeping, the project has developed a sustainable mechanism that provides an economic incentive for communities to commit to their conservation efforts, whilst generating revenue from the sale of their honey.

As the yield of hives is directly linked to the condition of the ecosystem - honey harvesting does not require any deforestation (unlike sugarcane production), and honey bees are vital pollinators within the ecosystem, enabling the growth of wild and agricultural flora. This initiative helps demonstrate the strong correlation between the health of the local ecosystem and the quality of harvest, encouraging communities to protect their surrounding forest.



**TARGET 2-3**

**x2**

DOUBLE THE PRODUCTIVITY AND INCOMES OF SMALL-SCALE FOOD PRODUCERS



## KEY ACTIVITIES



*A selection of newly distributed hives in the Chyulu Hills REDD+ Project zone*

Community members are provided with the necessary equipment and training to become fully independent in the maintenance and harvest of their hives.

The key activities for this initiative include:

- ✔ hive procurement and delivery,
- ✔ capacity building in beekeeping and maintenance,
- ✔ facilitating links to the market,
- ✔ inspection,
- ✔ harvesting,
- ✔ monitoring, and
- ✔ evaluation of the honey production.

Further support to the community includes efforts to advertise and sell harvested honey to local lodges and visitors, with the revenue generated flowing directly back to the group members who own the hives.

Creating a sustainable value chain and income-generating activities such as beekeeping provides members of the local community a sustainable income source to meet their basic needs, like food security and paying school fees, which will in turn reduce the need to exploit natural resources in the project area.



# MILESTONES

Beekeeping can be undertaken by anyone in the community as it requires very little land, time and equipment; in the Chyulu Hills REDD+ project most of the beekeepers are women. The enterprise is very profitable for the local community; one single harvest from a hive having the potential to pay 1-year of tuition fees for a child.

To date, almost **1,000 hives have been delivered to ~100 groups** (with almost 100 beekeeping suits) who have been trained in beekeeping by the project. Each group receives ongoing training that builds their capacity to implement the various phases of the bee-keeping process.

One of the most important differences this initiative has made so far is helping to empower marginalized groups in the community such as widows or women and youth who don't have a steady source of income. The beekeeping initiative aims to engage those individuals of the society and support them in meeting their basic needs.





# CURRENT NEWS

## Q3 2022:

A major challenge this quarter is the continued drought that Kenya is facing. Extremely dry conditions are limiting nectar and water sources, which has resulted in bee migration and reduced yields. Despite this challenge, the project has remained committed to supporting honey production as an economically viable opportunity for communities, with regular inspections and technical assistance continuing to help maintain and repair the hives during this reporting period.

A new honey processing plant was also procured, delivered and installed in 2022. Once fully operational, the plant will improve the processing, packaging, branding, and marketing of the honey at a higher standard that will help penetrate new markets and increase sales



*Structures are developed to keep the hives safe from local wildlife and sheltered from adverse weather conditions.*



# THE FUTURE

With a fully functional honey processing plant and enough honey supply, the project is expected to raise the standards for honey produced in the Chyulu Hills in the near future.

In the long term, the project aims to have a fully functioning honey processing plant that will upscale the sales of the honey produced and deliver increased economic benefits to the community. In turn, these investments will benefit the ecosystem by creating incentives for the community to ensure a sustainable environment for bees to thrive.

The program's desired success is to increase honey harvests, create the enabling conditions for community groups to be fully autonomous in hive maintenance, harvesting and marketing, and for the 100 beekeeping groups to realize the critical importance of maintaining a healthy environment that benefits beekeeping as a livelihood opportunity, but also the well-being of all people living in the project area.

