Impact Spotlight

Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project

Q1 2023

EVERLAND

WILDLIFEWORKS

SPOTLIGHT SUMMARY

The Wildlife Works' plot sampling initiative was established to collect biomass data required for monitoring carbon stocks in the Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project area. Carbon sampling, simply put, is a process that measures trees in order to precisely calculate the amount of carbon stored in them. Different trees hold different amounts of carbon depending on their species, structure and age. The team in Kenya, led by Joshua Kitiro, works closely with the Wildlife Works team in the USA. After receiving coordinates with maps from the technical team in the states, the field team in Kenya begins the tree measurement process within the same area, including recording data, measuring the diameter of the trunk of the tree with tape, capturing the height of the tree, as well as tagging the tree for easy identification.

Plot sampling serves the primary function of monitoring carbon stocks over the project's lifetime to fulfill the project's Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) obligations and communicate to key stakeholders the carbon value of the forest being protected. Plot samplers also collect data to monitor how well the project is progressing towards biodiversity conservation outcomes articulated in the project's Theory of Change.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PLOT SAMPLING

Data collected in the biomass plots are systematically translated into the carbon model and used in the monitoring reports that are verified under the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) and the Climate Community and Biodiversity Standard (CCB). Similarly, biodiversity data are analyzed and used to monitor the status of important biodiversity attributes in the Project Area. Monitoring results are used both for reporting and verification and for informing project-level management decisions.

Plot samplers' activities constitute core elements that fulfill verification to REDD+ standards. Data collected are used in the monitoring reports mainly to provide relevant information required for Carbon Stocks and Biodiversity monitoring. Specifically, the data are used to calculate Emissions reduction (ER) based on stratified-random, fixed permanent plot methodology. This is therefore important to Wildlife Works as a whole, the landowners, the communities through the Locational Carbon Committees (LCCs), the verifying bodies and the credit buyers.

Reference: VCS methodology VM0009

MILESTONES

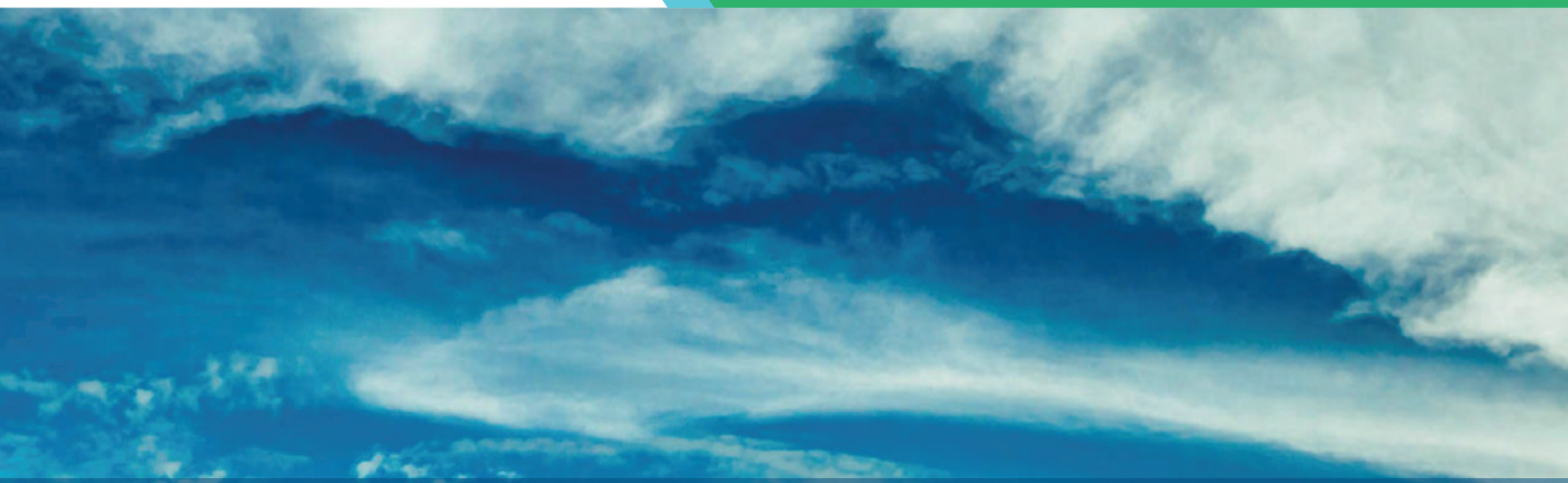
Since April 2011 when the Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project was validated, plot sampling has been instrumental in enabling accurate and timely measurement of carbon stocks and 8 successful verifications since. The project's 9th verification is currently underway, having undergone field verification in March 2023

CURRENT NEWS

The M9 field verification was undertaken in Q1 2023 and plot samplers remeasured some of the plots that were selected by the independent verifier. There were no significant differences in the random sampling, meaning the measurements have been done correctly.

Plot samplers also continued their biodiversity monitoring activities in Q1 2023. These included monitoring of elephant feeding behavior, vegetation monitoring on Mt. Kasigau and around waterholes.

THE FUTURE



In the short term, plot samplers will continue to undertake biodiversity monitoring as they also gear up for biomass measurements for the M10 monitoring period. Longer-term, the Kasigau plot sampling team will continue implementing annual biomass and biodiversity monitoring activities over the project's 30-year lifetime to continue systematically gathering crucial data needed for project verification and credit issuances. To achieve its full potential, key investment areas include vehicles to facilitate easy movement across the project area, provision and maintenance of quality equipment and training of new plot sampling members.