

HALF YEARLY IMPACT REPORT

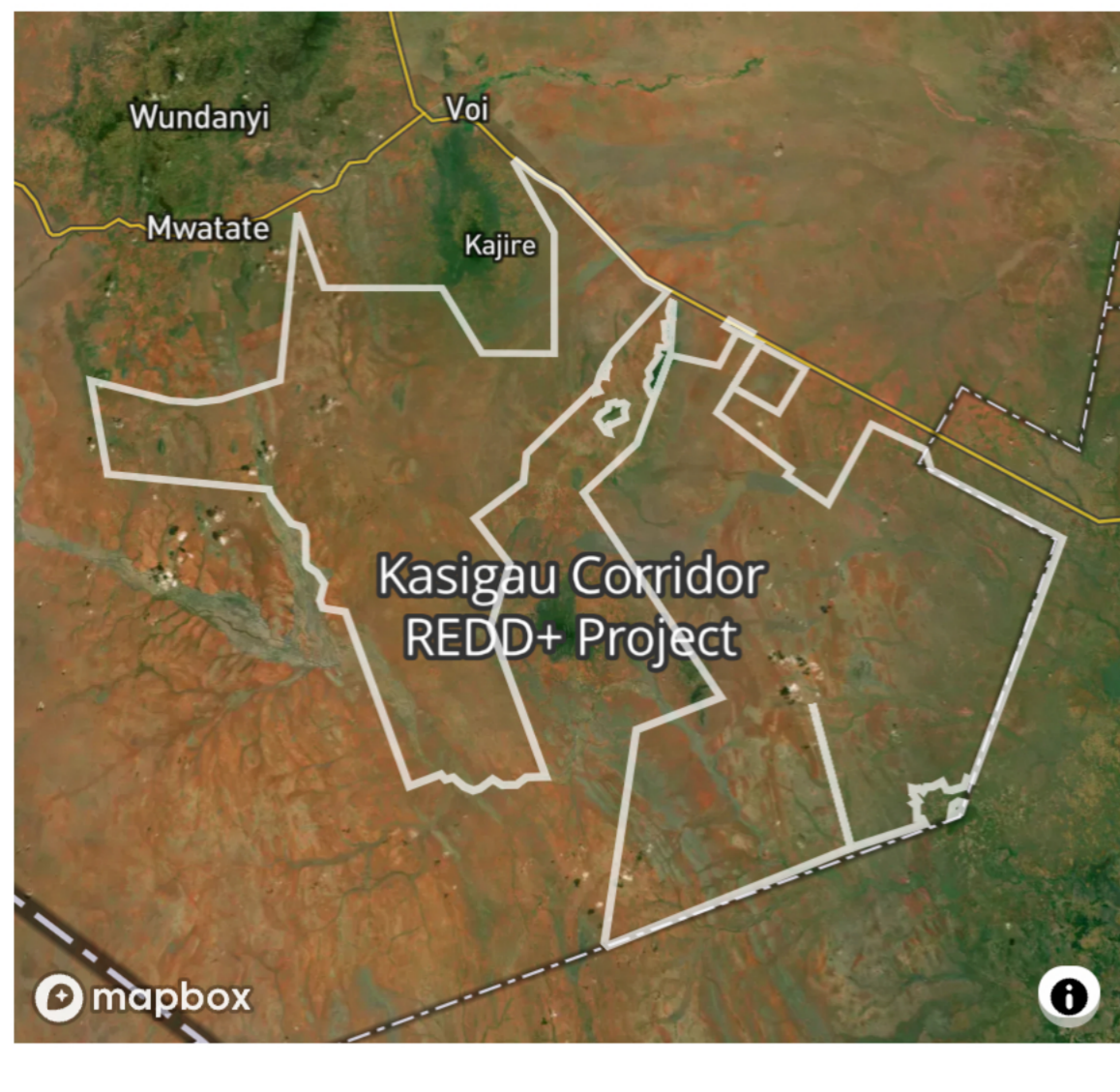
KASIGAU CORRIDOR REDD+ PROJECT
Q3-Q4 2022



Summary

A vital wildlife corridor between Tsavo East and West National Parks, the Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project protects over 200,000 hectares of dryland forest, with over 11,000 wild elephants living in the ecosystem - of whom 2000+ can be found in the Kasigau Corridor. In an area where wildlife and human survival were at odds, the Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project (KCRP) has transformed the paradigm of conflict between humans and nature through a market-driven solution to wildlife conservation. The world's pioneering REDD+ project addresses the threats of poaching, subsistence agriculture, and illegal tree harvesting through a comprehensive, community - governed revenue sharing model that has positively impacted the lives of 120,000 community members through investments in health, education, water and other infrastructure, income-generating enterprises, and direct job creation.

The relentless drought resulted in severe food insecurity for communities in the Kasigau Corridor, which was mitigated by investment in supplemental food and water by the project team and local collaborators. Seasonal rains finally commenced in November, allowing for the Greenhouse Department to distribute and plant seedlings across the project zone. The newly elected Governor of Taita Taveta County, His Excellency (H.E), Andrew Mwadime, visited the project and plans to engage in and support project activities in the near future.



HIGHLIGHTS

Tree Planting commences during November - December rains

After a relentless 2-year drought, rains finally came to the Kasigau Corridor in mid-November into December. The greenhouse team members, the majority of whom were hired from the local community, immediately commenced distributing thousands of seedlings across the landscape to take advantage of the improved conditions. The department has been preparing for this for months - nurturing the seedlings in the greenhouses to ready them for immediate planting to assist in forest regeneration and the establishment of community agroforestry.

A total of 33,213 indigenous tree seedlings were planted across the six project locations at neighboring schools and farms in an effort to reforest the landscape and agricultural matrix, and reduce pressure on the forests. Seedlings were planted in private farms, churches, and schools including Moi Boys High School, Jora Primary School, Rukanga Primary School, Kiteghe Primary School, Kasigau Girls Secondary School, and Bungule Primary School.

22 different tree species were planted, including the Blackthorn tree (*Acacia mellifera*), which is found in dry regions of the continent. This fast-growing tree is multi-purpose, providing nectar sources for bees, high protein leaves for cattle and wildlife, branches for charcoal, and entheogen for traditional African medicine.

The Forest Plan Pillars



Sustainable Development Goals



Wildlife Works Greenhouse staff preparing the seedlings for planting.



817 Blackthorn trees (Acacia mellifera) were planted in November - December.



Governor Andrew Mwadime during his visit to Wildlife Works KCRP.

Taita Taveta Governor Visit

The newly elected Governor of Taita Taveta County HE, Andrew Mwadime, visited KCRP on 26th October 2022. The governor was hosted by KCRP's project lead Nick Taylor and Regional Director of Operations Jamie Hendriksen, with other key personnel also present including Cara Braund (Conservation Project Manager), Eric Sagwe (Head Ranger), Laurian Lenjo (Head of Community Relations), Joseph Mwakima (Community Relations Officer), and Geoffrey Mwangi (Senior Research Scientist) among others.

He visited various KCRP projects, including the organic greenhouse, the apparel factory, and Hadithi. He expressed interest in working with the Wildlife Works team on various projects, including engaging with communities in local development plans and expressed support for the future expansion of KCRP.

This visit was particularly important as local political partnerships are key to the developments in REDD+ projects and local conservation work. The new governor is the highest elected official to engage with the project, with plans to continue collaborating with the project team in the near future.

The Forest Plan Pillar



Sustainable Development Goals



Completion of Community Projects-awating Handing Over

Between July and December 2022, 11 projects involving education, water, health, and other infrastructure were completed and are awaiting handing over to the communities. The projects include:

- Renovation of 5 classrooms at the Mwatunge Primary School
- Construction of a Chiefs/Community Coordination Office
- Construction of toilets at Miasenyi dispensary, Miasenyi primary school, Itinyi primary Early Childhood Development and Marungu Early Childhood Development
- Construction of fences at Majengo Early Childhood Development and Kale primary school
- Construction of water pipelines within Itinyi village and the Marungu Early Childhood Development

The projects cost a combined total of KES 19,838,956 (USD 159,992) and will positively impact over 50,000 local community members. The official handover process, undertaken in collaboration with the Community Relations Department, is a very important step for the project proponents, landowners, and community members. It is a good opportunity to discuss the project impacts and community investments, whilst also ensuring that the community landowners have more visibility and engagement with the community members.

The Forest Plan Pillar



Sustainable Development Goals



CHALLENGES



Droughts result in wildlife mortality and food shortage within community areas

Drought intensified between July and early November 2022, leading to increased incidents of wildlife and cattle mortality in KCRP due to a lack of food and water. Several wildlife carcasses were recorded, including zebras and buffaloes found near empty water holes. Wildlife Works continued to supply water in the main watering holes at Rukinga, including Mwakaramba tank, Marungu tank, and Garawa tank among others from the boreholes. Supplemental feed was also provided for wildlife at strategic areas in Rukinga, targeting the most vulnerable species.

Food shortage was also experienced in the whole of Taita Taveta County where KCRP is located. Wildlife Works, in partnership with funding from the Locational Carbon Committee and philanthropic donations from Elephant Cooperation, embarked on a School Feeding Programme with the aim of providing high-nutrient, high-energy food supplements to all schools without a preexisting feeding program in the area to ease the food shortage to pressure.

The Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET) is predicting record-high food prices and a fifth consecutive below-average rainy season for the coming months, likely to result in acute food insecurity across much of Kenya. The project region will be affected but not at the crisis or emergency level as predicted for northern areas of Kenya.

The Forest Plan Pillars



Sustainable Development Goals



Rangers continue to act upon incidences in the Kasigau Corridor

The ground and aerial patrols recorded and acted upon incidents within the project area that posed a threat to wildlife. The following incidents were recorded by project rangers (both foot and vehicle patrols) and the two resident gyrocopters conducting the aerial surveys: 28 Arrestees, 98 Carcasses, 1 Charcoal bag, 2 Charcoal camps, 1 Fire, 28 Cattle Grazing, 149 Human signs, 167 Human-Wildlife Conflicts, 11 Injured wildlife, 43 Kiln, 78 Log heaps and 67 Snares.

Following recent training and the integration of new technology, the security department is now much better equipped and experienced, enabling them to more effectively identify and record incidents. In addition, new rangers have been employed, thereby improving the capacity and coverage of rangers to record incidents.

An increase in the total number of incidents was recorded in the last 4 years. This is attributed to the improved capacity of the security team to record and capture incidents rather than an increase in threats. Wildlife Works security team continues to work with Kenya Wildlife Service, the police, and other stakeholders to deal with these incidents in KCRP. In addition, Wildlife Works embarked on the 'KCRP livelihoods programme' to work with communities in optimizing existing and new economic activities in the landscape.

The Forest Plan Pillars



Sustainable Development Goals

