



carbontanzania  
Protecting forests for communities, wildlife, and climate

# Impact Report 2024



# Impact Report 2024



## Founder's Letter

Dear friends and partners,

As we reflect on 2024, we're both filled with a profound sense of pride and accomplishment for what we've achieved at Carbon Tanzania. It truly was a year of consolidation and thoughtful planning, all geared towards future-proofing our organisation and ensuring our long-term impact.

While we were busy strengthening our foundations, our operational forest conservation projects continued to deliver incredible results on the ground. We channeled over TZS 9.4 billion (3.7M USD) directly to some of the most remote communities in Africa. This is vital finance for communities and local governments to deliver critical health services, improved education, and essential supporting infrastructure. The ripple effect of these benefits is immense, extending to the protection of vital habitats for Africa's most enigmatic wildlife, such as chimpanzees, elephants, wild dogs, and lions. Plus, of course, these efforts also generate much-needed positive climate impacts for the rest of the world.

Delivering such widespread and impactful results across Tanzania requires sophisticated planning, robust organisational capacity, focused financial management, and the dedicated efforts of an incredible team. It's truly a far cry from those early days in Yaeda Valley, when the two of us were crisscrossing the landscape on motorbikes, doing everything ourselves with just a few dollars in our pockets. When we look back at the philosophy and vision that guided us 16 years ago, and what we felt at the time was truly needed to protect nature, it's with deep gratitude that we can reflect on what we've achieved.

In many ways, our core philosophy and vision remain unchanged from when we first set off on those motorbikes. We firmly believe that people are at the very centre of this conservation story, and that respect and recognition for their rights must always be the starting point. This is what continues to drive us, along with the ongoing challenge of securing appropriate finance for people to protect what is theirs.

However, Carbon Tanzania's success isn't solely about the measurable impacts we deliver to communities across Tanzania. It's also about the development of an organisation that is capable of consistently delivering that impact. This past year, we embarked on a crucial journey to ensure Carbon Tanzania is truly built for sustainable growth. By collaborating with outside providers, we initiated a comprehensive process of re-organisation and strategic recruitment, with our new CEO Sally Capper as the cornerstone of this work.

As we sit here today in our stunning new office, our thoughts drift back to the incredible journey we've undertaken, and then forward to the exciting future ahead. It's a truly powerful experience to be part of building a company, especially when that company is such a significant force for good in the world.

We are incredibly excited to continue our journey into 2025, working alongside our newly developed and expanded team, collaborators and partners to make an even greater impact.

Marc & Jo  
Co-founders of Carbon Tanzania

Carbon Tanzania is a business that creates and sells nature-based carbon credits. We channel this climate finance from global companies to local communities, realising value from natural ecosystems. Our equitable business model delivers measurable development outcomes for Tanzanians.

## Our four impact pillars



When Indigenous people have rights over their land and resources, they will prioritise protecting their forest



When Indigenous people can demonstrate measurable improvements in safeguarding their forests, they benefit financially from doing so



When Indigenous people earn carbon revenue they come together to act in their collective best interests



When carbon revenue and collective community decision-making comes together it transforms communities

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# Our impacts in 2024

As part of Carbon Tanzania's commitment to deepening our understanding and evidence of impact, we have broadened our approach beyond tracking direct outcomes funded by carbon revenues. While the ongoing measurement of emission reductions, healthcare spending, and village game scout employment remains essential, we also recognise the need to go further: listening more closely to, and learning from, our community partners.

To do this, we are using REFLECT for Nature (RfN), a social impact evaluation approach that helps us better understand and learn from the perspectives of the local communities at the heart of our projects. By capturing

how carbon revenue influences their lives, livelihoods, and connection to the forests they protect, we can evidence the broader, transformative changes that define true impact, while ensuring we are not causing unintended harm. This report reflects the evolution of our approach.

Carbon Tanzania continues to align with international frameworks such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We track indicators related to 12 of the 17 SDGs, ensuring our work contributes meaningfully to global sustainability targets. This alignment helps us assess both project-level benefits and our contribution to wider environmental, social, and economic goals.





**12 out of the 17**

UN Sustainable Development  
Goals addressed



**278,543 people**

directly benefitted  
from all three projects



**690,500 hectares**

of forest were protected, an area  
over twice the size of Luxembourg



**18 threatened species**

were protected  
(IUCN Red List)



**1,742,000 hectares**

were protected by projects  
under development, an area  
approximately the size of Kuwait



**US\$3,990,693**

was earned by forest  
communities through  
carbon finance



**448 people**

were employed in  
forest conservation



**781,800 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>**

reductions verified as carbon credits,  
more than twice the annual emissions  
of the Cayman Islands

# 2024 highlights

With the adoption of Tanzania's amended national Carbon Trading Regulations in late 2023, our focus in 2024 was to update the agreements with our local community partners. To ensure alignment with the new regulations, we conducted contract review meetings across all partner villages, along with focused General Assembly meetings that included government officials. All renewed contracts now fully comply with the regulations, strengthening the foundation for continued community-led conservation. Undoubtedly, the highlight for the year was celebrating World Environment Day in Dodoma with Philip Mpango, the Vice President of Tanzania.



## Yaeda-Eyasi Landscape

As the Yaeda-Eyasi Landscape project matures, it is attracting growing interest from external stakeholders eager to learn from its success. In 2024, the project received visits from students, researchers and media, including the Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation which spotlighted the project, showcasing its positive impact on both people and nature.





## Ntakata Mountains

Free, prior and informed consent is an ongoing process that continues throughout the lifetime of the Ntakata Mountains project. This was reflected in the establishment of an advisory committee and the training of Carbon Champions who play a vital role in educating communities on forest conservation and the project's operations.

Additionally, there was a strong emphasis on capacity building, providing specialised training for Village Game Scouts (VGS) and on operational procedures and using the Cluey app for enhanced monitoring and financial training to strengthen local management of project benefits.



## Makame Savannah

As part of our broader monitoring, evaluation and learning strategy, we deployed the social impact evaluation approach, REFLECT for Nature, in the Makame Savannah project. The results revealed that the villages of the Makame Wildlife Management Area possess a unique combination of strong social cohesion, accountable governance, and a shared long-term vision for socio-economic development (what we consider to be the 'secret sauce' for its success).

The project is driving real community-led transformation, generating an estimated 1:10 social return on investment, with a social value of US\$6,727,659 based on locally informed valuations in 2024.



## Ruvuma Wilderness

Initial investments were made to help the Ruvuma Wilderness project become operational ahead of generating carbon revenue. These funds have financed protection units, including 50 Village Game Scouts, and the recruitment of 70 Carbon Champions to educate the communities on climate change, project operations, and revenue sharing.

A workshop with partners deepened local understanding of climate change and carbon trading. Other activities include the collection of biodiversity data to establish baseline conditions and a site visit by Revalue, our tech and investment partner, to deploy tech solutions and assess social safeguards. These activities lay the foundation for long-term environmental and social benefits.

# Best-in-class reporting

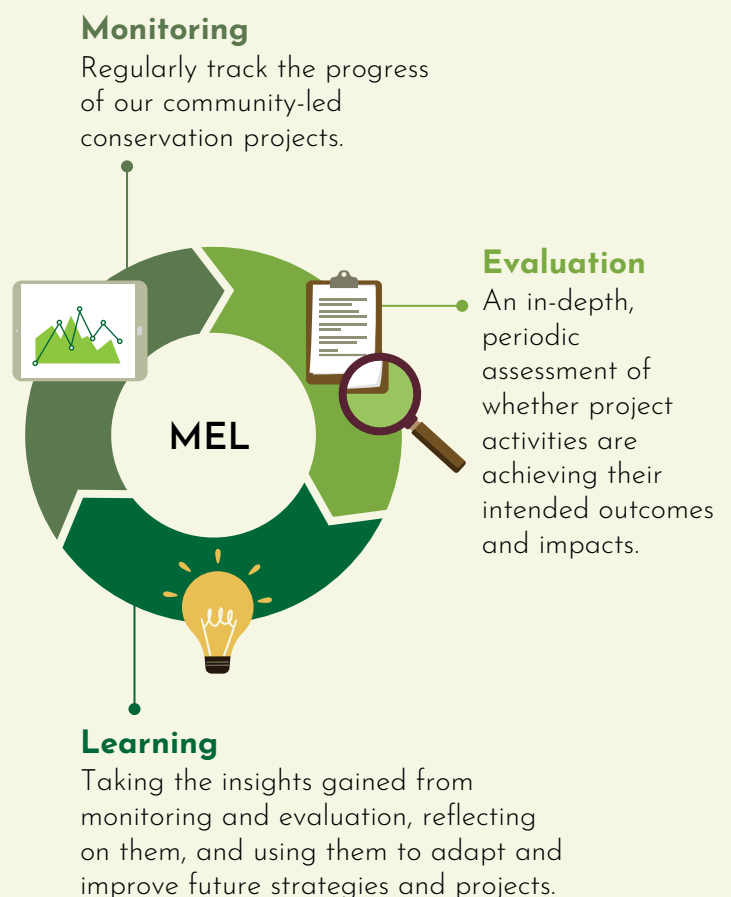
The voluntary carbon market is dynamic and ever-changing. To maintain a competitive edge, we embrace innovation and integrate industry best practice into every part of our operations.

In 2024, work began on the complex process of transitioning to Verra's consolidated REDD methodology, VM0048, a methodology created to align with evolving best practices. This methodology has since been approved as eligible for the Core Carbon Principle (CCP)-label by the Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market (ICVCM). By transitioning to VM0048 we are adopting the latest science and increasing buyer confidence in our carbon credits.

## Monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL)

We have developed a comprehensive MEL strategy to ensure our community-led conservation projects are effective, transparent, and adaptive.

We systematically collect data on project activities, environmental indicators, and socio-economic factors to track progress and identify areas that need attention. By analysing this data, we assess the success of our strategies and identify necessary adjustments. This iterative learning process allows us to refine our methods and enhance project outcomes. Importantly, we assess the overall impact of our projects against predefined objectives, ensuring accountability and informing future decision-making.





## Monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV)

**MRV is essential for ensuring transparency and accuracy in tracking greenhouse gas emission reductions and conservation outcomes. It underpins stakeholder trust and effective climate finance mechanisms.**

As a core pillar of our strategy, we are consolidating and refining our existing MRV systems to better align with the specific needs of our forest protection projects and the international standards under which they are certified. This includes: assessing the minimum required processes for verification, enhancing existing methods where needed, and building internal capacity to integrate new MRV tools and methodologies, such as REFLECT for Nature, as our project portfolio expands and evolves.

The actions we are undertaking to strengthen our MEL through enhanced MRV are designed to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the ecological and social impacts of our work on the communities directly engaged in our projects. We're uncovering what makes our interventions uniquely effective and identifying the organisational and design elements that drive lasting change, such as equitable partnerships.

This commitment to innovation ensures our work delivers tangible benefits at both environmental and societal levels.

## REFLECT for Nature

**Our commitment to understanding and supporting the lived experiences of our community partners led us to commission REFLECT for Nature, a social impact evaluation service.**

It captures community perspectives to ensure the benefits of carbon finance are equitably distributed and aligned with local development goals, grounding our MRV approach in social accountability.

REFLECT for Nature uses a two-stage approach to assess the social impact of carbon revenue:

1. Focus groups: Discussions that generate rich qualitative narratives. These narratives are analysed to identify a set of clearly defined outcomes.
2. Survey: Using the outcomes from the focus groups, a survey is designed and distributed to a broader group of community members to validate the prevalence and significance of those outcomes across the wider community.

The Social Return on Investment methodology is used to quantify the social impact of carbon revenue. Participants were asked to assign monetary values to the changes they experienced, allowing for the estimation of community-perceived benefits in dollar terms. This approach centres local perspectives, rather than relying on global proxies, to express the true value of carbon revenue from the community's point of view.



# Evidencing impact: Aligning with the SDGs

Protecting forests delivers positive and measurable economic, social and environmental benefits to local communities. Carbon Tanzania's forest conservation model leads not only to the protection of important forest areas, but also serves local development needs through its revenue sharing system. We can therefore monitor and measure both the outcomes and impacts of our projects in the context of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and our projects contribute to 12 out of 17 SDGs.



1 NO POVERTY



Carbon credit payments have strengthened village budgets, improved services and advanced development plans, leading to stronger leadership that mobilises resources to benefit the wider community and alleviate poverty.

## US\$3.4 million

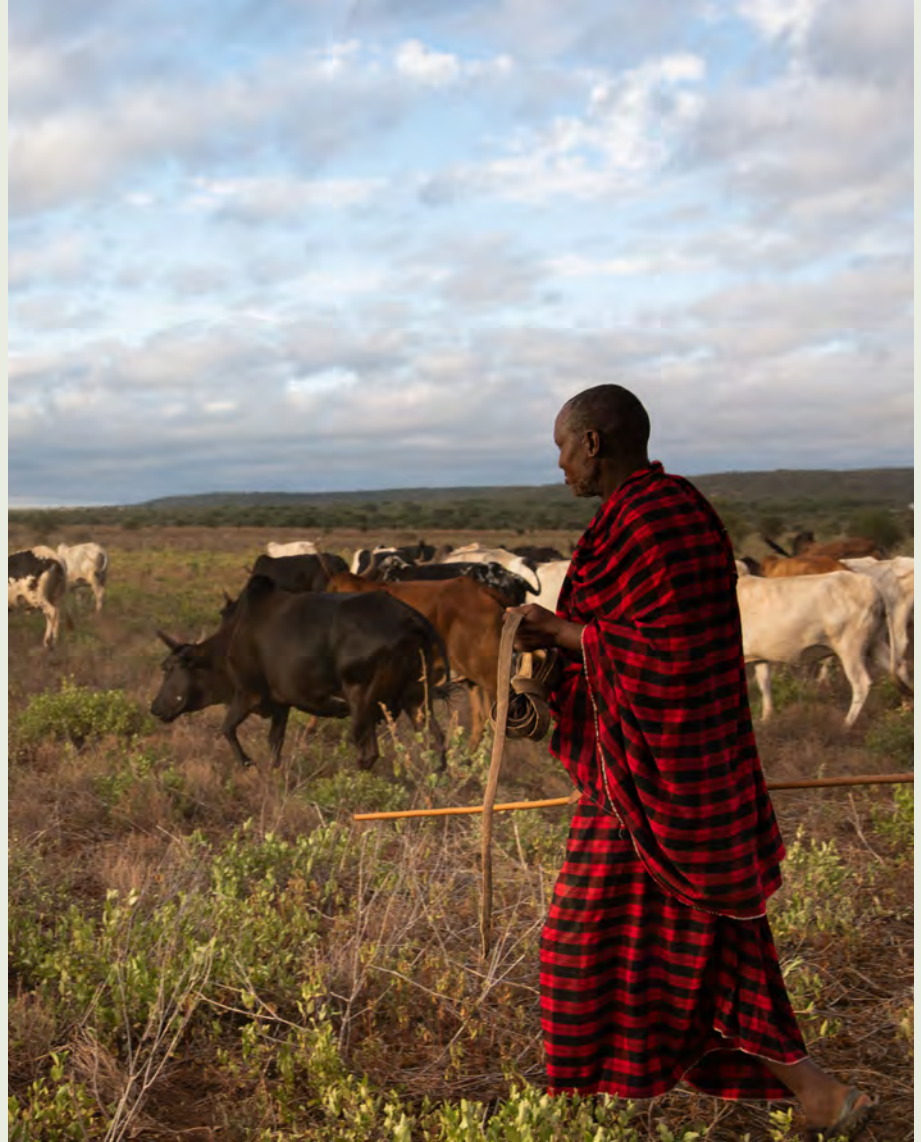
earned by communities

**183** women are members of Community Conservation Banks (COCOBA) benefiting from loans funded by carbon revenue

**25** village land use plans, developed with community participation, in operation

**3,697** people actively participated in village-level finance and grievance meetings in the Yaeda-Eyasi Landscape project

**3,405** households in Makame benefit from improved grazing and consequently reduced financial stress



"Protecting forests is our path to a brighter future. We will ensure this legacy for our children."

Verena Pasiana, Lugonesi community member,  
Ntakata Mountains project



"Being relieved from the burden of contributing to village development projects, students getting food at school, and access to capital through COCOBA, has given the Ntakata Mountains community time to do their individual and group activities, and use their income."

Elisante Octavian Ako, Ntakata Mountains Project Officer

2 ZERO HUNGER



Project activities enhance food security by supporting thriving forests that provide wild food and essential ecosystem services like clean water and fertile soils.

### Forests provide:

Food: honey, mushrooms, fruit, nuts

Enhanced soil quality

Water and climate cycle regulation

Crop pollination

### Projects zone land for specific uses such as:

Forest reserves

Grazing

Agriculture and settlement areas

Water reserves and rivers

Community use

Cultural area

Wildlife corridors



"The forest holds great importance to us (Hadza). It is essential for wildlife and honey hunting, finding wild fruits and tubers."

Pili Gudo Mahiya, VGS co-ordinator and Hadza mother, Yaeda-Eyasi Landscape project

3 GOOD HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING

Communities use carbon revenue to improve access to healthcare by building dispensaries, hospital wards, hospital staff accommodation and providing health insurance.

**5,106**

people received health insurance in the Ntakata Mountains project area

**54**

people had treatment paid for at the leading regional hospital with carbon revenue in the Yaeda-Eyasi Landscape project area

**3**

new clinics built in Makame, including a maternity ward



"In the past we had to walk for two hours for my baby's vaccinations. We are grateful that there is now a dispensary nearby for my child."

Zuwena Michael, Mpembe community member,  
Ntakata Mountains project

## 4 QUALITY EDUCATION



### DEEP DIVE

## The flow of carbon revenue into the community has improved access to quality education for all.

**3,271** people reached by Carbon Champions for environmental education in the Ntakata Mountains and Makame Savannah project areas

**277** Village Game Scouts (VGS) trained in the Makame Savannah, Ntakata Mountains and Ruvuma Wilderness project areas

**5** primary schools provided hot meals paid for by carbon revenue in the Yaeda-Eyasi Landscape project area

**126** secondary school students had their fees and board paid for with carbon revenue in the Yaeda-Eyasi landscape project area

**72** university students' fees paid in Makame and Yaeda-Eyasi project area

**45** additional part-time teachers employed with carbon revenue in the Ntakata Mountains project area

The REFLECT for Nature study in the Makame Savannah project revealed that a striking 95% of participants believe it is "very important" for young people to have the opportunity to access higher education.

US\$535,000 in carbon revenue has been allocated to education by the Makame Wildlife Management Areas since the project began. 9,840 children now benefit from better access to education through new school infrastructure and sponsorships for vulnerable families, significantly improving academic performance.

These outcomes, valued by the community in 2024 at US\$2,084,936, are driven by carbon revenue, which supports investments in education as a collective priority for long-term community, individual and economic benefits.



In the Eyasi region, the REFLECT for Nature study found that while education is recognised as important, its value is understood through a different cultural lens. Here, traditional knowledge, social responsibility, and deep-rooted community ties often hold more weight in determining leadership and social status than formal education. Nonetheless, investments in new school infrastructure and sponsorships for vulnerable families have enabled 6,375 children to gain better access to education. These improvements have led to gains in academic performance and were valued by the community in 2024 at US\$110,112, reflecting the way educational services are understood within their broader social framework.

"If it wasn't for carbon revenue, most students wouldn't have received an education to the secondary and university level."

Pili Gudo, VGS co-ordinator, Yaeda-Eyasi Landscape project



5 GENDER  
EQUALITY

## Women's empowerment initiatives are supported across all projects.

**64** women are village game scouts – approximately 20% of all scouts

**12%** of all Carbon Champions are women

**183** women are COCOBA members (a local savings and loan initiative) - 53% of all COCOBA members



The REFLECT for Nature study in Makame found that women reported owning a similar level of assets as men, but on smaller areas of land. This challenges the

stereotypes of asset ownership among Masai women and suggests progress towards gender equality in asset ownership in the Makame WMA project area.



"Carbon revenue increased the amount being loaned so we can pursue large-scale endeavours and achieve overall community development. In the first phase I borrowed two million tsh. Then I added other funds to buy the flour mill machine. In the second phase, I borrowed eight million tsh to buy a motorbike for me and my colleague."

**Verena Ponsiana, COCOBA member, Lugonesi village, Ntakata Mountains project**

## 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



**Carbon revenue supports sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, while project activities offer employment opportunities and decent work for all.**

**325** VGS across all project areas (a 15% increase on 2023)

**42** staff employed by Carbon Tanzania

**96** Carbon Champions across Makame Savannah, Ntakata Mountains and Ruvuma Wilderness project areas (a 533% increase on 2023)

**448** people employed as a result of project implementation

**343** COCOBA members



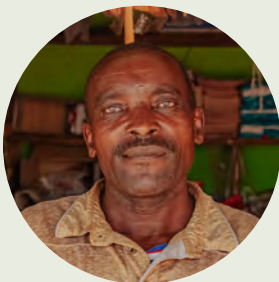
COCOBA groups are a local savings and loan initiative that helps communities support themselves and protect forests. Money earned from carbon

credits helps increase the size of loans members can get. COCOBA groups have been a critical tool in boosting economic growth.



"If the COCOBA [community microloans] reached the level of buying a calf, you buy your own calf, which is called 'the COCOBA Women's calf'. You buy a goat – it is called the COCOBA Women's goat. You cultivate a farm for your children, and the WMA has brought all these benefits."

**Iteti Kuya, female traditional leader, Katikati village Makame Savannah project**



"I have achieved great things in just one year since joining the COCOBA group. It's made me realise that anything is possible. Now, with these groups, we don't just grow, harvest, and sell our crops and then relax. You have to reinvest the money to keep it circulating, so you have money to spend each week. As a result, people have even moved out of their thatched houses. Before, it was unthinkable for someone to move from a thatched to a brick house."

**Peter Everest Masago, COCOBA member, Ntakata Mountains project**

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

There has been considerable investment in community development infrastructure and improved operations across all projects.

**295** people trained on the data collection app, Cluey

**13** COCOBAs registered, providing **343** people with access to loans supported by carbon revenue in the Ntakata Mountains project area

**12** new buildings in the Yaeda-Eyasi Landscape project area, including school and hospital toilet blocks, houses for nurses and teachers, classrooms and secure stores

**3** new clinics built in Makame, plus a maternity ward



"Our efforts to protect the Ntakata Mountains forests have led to a big achievement: a fully functioning dispensary that benefits our whole community. Every day we're making a difference."

Dr Amri Musa, Doctor and community member, the Ntakata Mountains project

10 REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES

**When carbon revenues are shared fairly and communities have secure rights to own and manage their land, it fosters social, economic, and political inclusion for all.**

## Land tenure agreements

The communities' legal tenure over their land forms the foundation of our projects and can take different forms.

### Yaeda Eyasi Landscape

**12** Certificate of Customary Rights of Occupancy (the first instance in Tanzania of the certificate being awarded to a community)

### Makame Savannah

**1** Community Wildlife Management Area designation (the largest WMA in Tanzania)

### Ntakata Mountains

**8** Village Land Forest Reserves

### Ruvuma Wilderness

**5** Community Wildlife Management Area designations

## Land management plans

**25** Village land use plans in operation

**5** General Management Plans finalised



In Makame, 88% of community members surveyed agreed that carbon revenue benefits all, according to the REFLECT for Nature study. This sense of collective gain wasn't limited by gender or age, it was a unifying perspective across the entire community. This evidence suggests fairness and shared prosperity have taken root, offering hope for reducing inequalities and building a more inclusive society.

In the Eyasi region of the Yaeda-Eyasi Landscape project, REFLECT for Nature uncovered a different story: 64% of community members surveyed had not been involved in deciding how the revenue was spent. Despite this relatively low participation rate in decision-making, 73% of respondents believed that the carbon revenue benefits the whole

community. Carbon Tanzania is using this information to work with communities to change participation processes and improve engagement in decision-making.

"These carbon credits benefit everyone in Makame WMA, even me [a non-Masai], I am a beneficiary. I am fortunate that my child is studying at university [with fees paid for by carbon revenue] so my family has benefited."

**Asnath Bakari, Makame WMA community member**





## We cannot tackle climate change without addressing deforestation.

### Hectares of forest protected per project

|              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| Yaeda Valley | 110,500        |
| Makame       | 364,000        |
| Ntakata      | 216,000        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>690,500</b> |

### Hectares protected by projects under development

|        |           |
|--------|-----------|
| Ruvuma | 1,030,000 |
|--------|-----------|

### Tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> verified as carbon credits per project in 2024

|              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| Yaeda-Eyasi  | 168,912        |
| Makame       | 214,080        |
| Ntakata      | 398,808        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>781,800</b> |



Deforestation accounts for 70% of Tanzania's carbon emissions with over 400,000 hectares of forest lost every year across the country. Our projects are developed, validated and verified in accordance with Verra's and Plan Vivo's international REDD+ (Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation) methodologies, that quantify the carbon emissions resulting from deforestation and forest degradation.

We are currently transitioning the Makame Savannah and

Ntakata Mountains project to Verra's VM0048 consolidated REDD+ methodology, which has been approved by the Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market (ICVCM) as a Core Carbon Principle (CCP)-label eligible methodology. Adoption of this CCP-aligned methodology will enhance the credibility, transparency, and market confidence in the emissions reductions from these landscapes, ensuring continued community and biodiversity benefits under a globally recognised standard.



## Project activities use MRV to protect natural forests that support an abundance of mineral, animal, and plant lifeforms.



Our MRV systems do more than measure carbon reductions across all our project areas. They are essential tools for capturing the complex interplay between ecological health and human well-being. By tracking forest integrity, wildlife presence, and local resource use, our MRV approach supports communities to manage their natural assets sustainably while ensuring the long-term protection of Tanzania's biodiverse landscapes.

Each project is grounded in its unique ecological and social context, requiring a tailored MRV approach that reflects both the specific biodiversity being protected and the ways local communities use and depend on the land. From real-time wildlife tracking and habitat monitoring to social impact assessments, MRV enables a dynamic understanding of life on land, delivering measurable

conservation outcomes and reinforcing local stewardship.

The **Yaeda-Eyasi Landscape project** protects a mosaic of Acacia-Commiphora woodlands, savannah grasslands, ancient baobabs, and the Yaeda Chini seasonal wetland – an internationally recognised Important Bird Area. The village game scouts use the Cluey app to record wildlife sightings and patrol activity, even when offline. This enhances biodiversity tracking, including sightings of rare mammal and bird species, such as the endemic Ashy Starling and Grey-breasted Spurfowl. These insights support data-driven conservation strategies that benefit both local ecosystems and the Hadza and pastoralist communities which rely on a healthy landscape to maintain their traditional lifestyles.

In the vast **Makame Savannah project** area, MRV combines traditional ecological knowledge with modern conservation practices. This includes occupancy modelling, to monitor six key large mammal species, including lion, leopard, giraffe, and elephant, whose populations are stable or growing, thanks to effective habitat protection. Project activities have led to improved rangeland health for over 3,400 semi-nomadic pastoralist households. According to the REFLECT for Nature study, this has reduced economic stress,

contributing an estimated value of US\$3.75 million, based on locally informed valuations in 2024.

The core focus of the MRV system in the **Ntakata Mountains project** area is the maintenance of Village Land Forest Reserves. These community-owned forests are legally protected and regularly monitored using a combination of satellite imagery, field verification data, site visits by third party verification bodies and community data reporting. Through this approach, the project continues to safeguard over 216,000 hectares of Miombo woodland, effectively preventing the unsustainable cutting of approximately 1.25 million trees each year. This contributes significantly to carbon sequestration and underpins the generation of high-integrity carbon credits.

MRV in the **Ruvuma Wilderness project** area is being developed from the ground up to create a baseline for long-term ecological monitoring. Extensive biodiversity surveys are underway, with a strong focus on bird populations as indicators of ecosystem health. The system integrates community input, and ecological metrics to track forest cover changes and species abundance. This robust framework will guide adaptive management, ensuring conservation gains are measurable, transparent, and inclusive.



## Project activities and carbon revenue support the building of accountable and fair governance structures.

**82%** of community members surveyed in Makame's social impact assessment feel that the carbon project is being managed transparently

**87%** of people in the Eyasi region of the Yaeda-Eyasi Landscape project area reported feeling safer due to the presence of VGS

**5** finance and grievance meetings have been conducted to ensure transparency and trust across all three operational projects

**1,161** people attended governance training

Tanzania's corruption bureau conducted workshops in the Yaeda Valley project area



"When we attend village meetings, we also speak just like everyone else. We've been given the freedom to stand and speak as women. In the past, women weren't allowed to speak, but now we have that freedom."

Paulina Lazaro, Chairperson of the Women's group,  
KatiKati village Makame Savannah project

17 PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS

## Carbon Tanzania continues to focus on building strong partnerships with local communities, government, non-governmental organisations and private enterprise.



REVALUE



We collaborate with both international and local conservation and social justice organisations to achieve a shared goal

We work closely with the President's Office for Regional Administration and Local Government and the Ministry of Environment in Tanzania to align with their environmental management and climate mitigation goals, and report to the Tanzanian National Carbon Monitoring Centre.

We continue to collaborate with the highest levels of government, helping to drive finance to local communities through the

development of carbon assets in line with the Paris Agreement and Tanzania's Nationally Determined Contributions.



Ngollo Malenya District Commissioner for Namtumbo District, Ruvuma meets with Azaria Kilimba, Carbon Tanzania Operations Manager.



# Our projects



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**Yaeda-Eyasi**Landscape

Protecting forests for indigenous peoples, wildlife and climate



# Yaeda-Eyasi Landscape project

Established: 2011 | First carbon revenue received: 2013

**Supporting the Hadza and Datooga to earn climate finance by protecting their ancestral lands against deforestation and illegal encroachment.**





Verified by:



Winner of the:



137,200 trees protected

110,500 ha protected

US\$590,717 earned by communities in 2024

Treatment of 54 people at the regional Haydom hospital paid for with carbon revenue

142 people trained on the Cluey app to enhance forest protection activities

Fees for 126 secondary students and 14 university students paid for by carbon revenue

5 primary schools had meals provided for with carbon revenue

148 VGS

31 women Village Game Scouts an 83% increase



carbon**tanzania**

**Makame**Savannah

Protecting forests for pastoralists, wildlife and climate



# Makame Savannah project

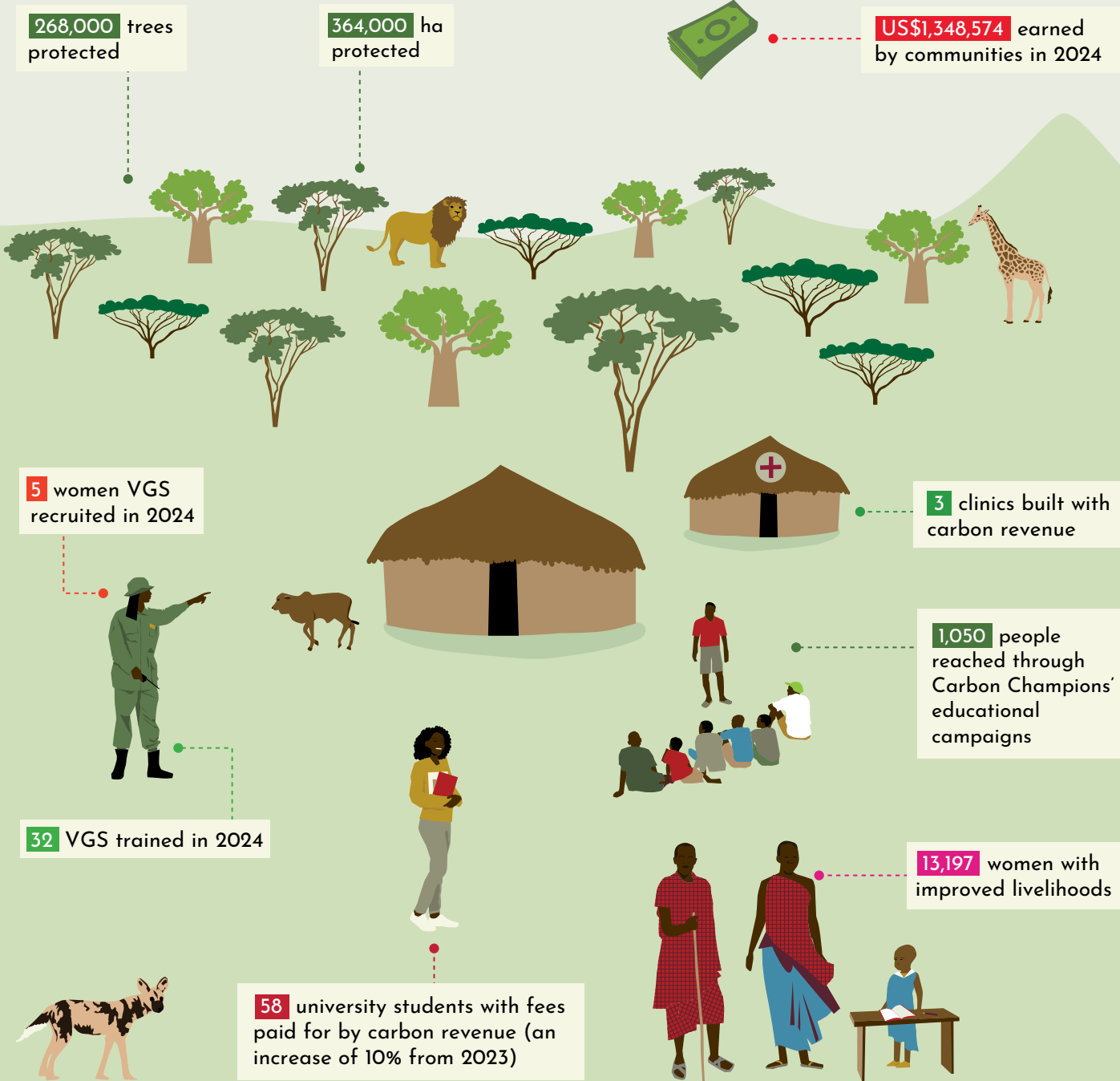
Established: 2016 | First carbon revenue received: 2020

Conserving critical habitat for protected wildlife by engaging with the Maasai to enforce community created, culturally-aligned, land use plans that keep their cattle, themselves, and the ecosystem healthy.





Verified by:





carbon**tanzania**

**Ntakata**Mountains

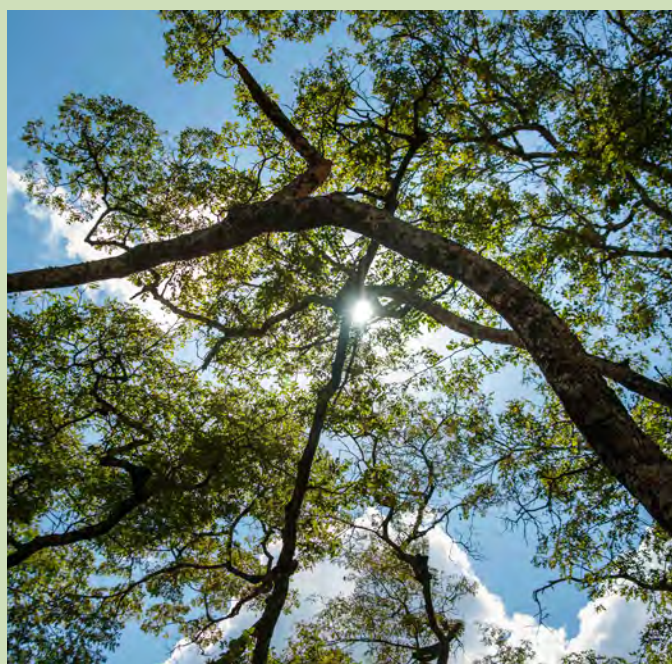
Protecting forests for farmers, wildlife and climate



# Ntakata Mountains project

Established: 2017 | First carbon revenue received: December 2019

**Enacting and managing Village Land Forest Reserves to help farming communities protect important wildlife habitat and enhance connectivity in the Greater Mahale ecosystem.**





Verified by:

**VCS** | VERIFIED CARBON STANDARD

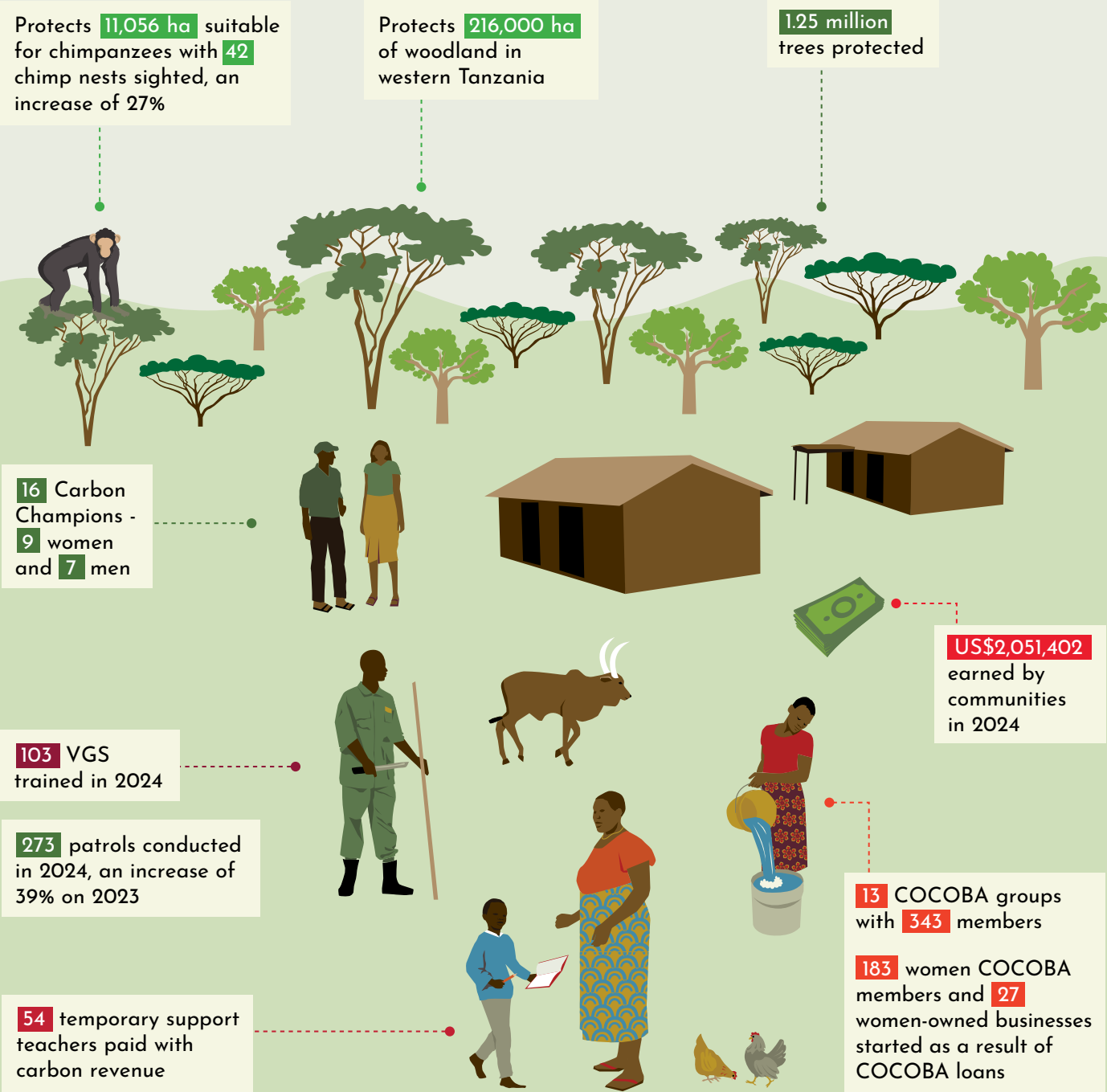
**CCB Standards**<sup>SM</sup>

The Climate, Community & Biodiversity Alliance

Winner of the:

**Pathfinder Award 2021**

IUCN UNDP





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Ruvuma Wilderness

Protecting forests for farmers, wildlife and climate



# Ruvuma Wilderness project

★ Project under development ★

**Protecting a 10,000km<sup>2</sup> corridor in Ruvuma Region, southern Tanzania.**

Ruvuma Wilderness project is a pioneering collaboration between Carbon Tanzania and Revalue. It combines community-led conservation with advanced technology, continual innovation, and cutting-edge approaches to protect over one million hectares of Miombo woodland in southern Tanzania.

Connecting the Nyerere National Park in Tanzania and Niassa National Reserve in Mozambique, the project ensures biodiversity gains are made alongside carbon sequestration.

The project started as a collaboration with five previously established Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), and now includes the Tunduru District's village land through a newly signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The incorporation of Village Land Forest Reserves into the project area enables the integration of multiple legal land management titles, expanding the project's conservation footprint and strengthening community



ownership and legal recognition of forest protection efforts.

Before carbon revenue starts to flow, initial investment funds are being used to establish the operational framework. In 2024, these funds supported the creation of essential protection units, including the deployment of 50 Village Game Scouts to safeguard the forest and the recruitment of 78 Carbon Champions to engage local communities in climate education, project operations, and revenue-sharing mechanisms.

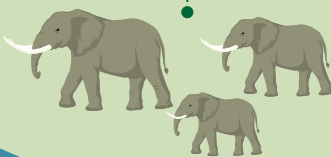
Biodiversity data collection has been carried out to establish baseline ecological conditions, ensuring that conservation impact can be accurately measured over time. In addition, our technology and investment partner, Revalue will visit the site to lay the groundwork for implementing cutting-edge tech solutions, such as LiDAR, that will optimise carbon quantification, monitoring and management efforts.



REVALUE



Elephants are a key species in the area



The majority of people living in the ecosystem are Yao subsistence farmers with a strong cultural identity and desire to protect both their forest and the spiritual sites found across the landscape.



- 8 people employed
- 5 WMAs included in the project
- 39 villages included in the project
- 50 VGS employed
- 10 women VGS
- 78 Carbon Champions
- 161,473 people directly benefiting from the project

**The Ruvuma WMAs** connect Niassa Game Reserve in northern Mozambique and Nyerere National Park in south eastern Tanzania, creating one of the largest transfrontier protected areas in Africa at 154,000km².



# Spotlight interview

**Kisaro Thomas Lombutwa,  
Project Officer, Makame  
Savannah project**

## **Tell us about yourself and your village's work with Carbon Tanzania.**

My name is Kisaro Thomas Lombutwa and I always say that I am a 'typical Masai'. By this, I mean that my grandparents were Masai, my parents are Masai, and I grew up in Makame in northern Tanzania.

My parents raise livestock, and for them, as for nearly everyone in my village, land is life. Without our lands, we cannot survive. I live in one of five villages set inside the Makame Wildlife Management Area (WMA), where, since 2016, we have partnered with Carbon Tanzania to run a carbon credit project.

The project works with the WMA to protect the lands from the two main challenges we face: encroachment and poaching. It may surprise you to know, but land is one of the reasons so many of us value our local carbon credit project. How do I know this? Well, because last year I worked with a social science research team to see how carbon revenue impacts my Masai community.

## **Before we dive into the survey findings, what is your own experience of carbon crediting in Makame?**

The media is full of stories about how carbon-crediting projects ignore the voices of local people. I've read countless articles proclaiming that people in the Global North swan in, sell carbon that's been captured by trees in the Global South, and do not share their profits with people like me. To be honest, these types of articles have always left me feeling sad and confused. How can others have experienced the carbon markets so differently from me? Carbon revenue helps to secure our land and fund our children's education. This may not be everyone's carbon credit experience, but it is certainly true for us. For us Masai, the land is the foundation of life. When it is secure, we are free to invest in our children's education, equipping the next generation with knowledge and opportunity.

## **How secure do you and the five villages in Makame consider your lands?**

Land, as I have said, is of utmost importance to us Masai. However, this is increasingly challenging. Over the last decade, many people have moved to the Makame WMA to find new land to farm.

While I understand their reasons, this puts pressure on our communities. New arrivals often see forests as unused land and clear trees to make way for agriculture. Deforestation is hugely problematic for us; it threatens the habitats of native wildlife, it disrupts migratory species, and it can cause conflict between the new and the long-established communities. Before Carbon Tanzania began its work, Makame had a deforestation rate nine times higher than the national average.

### **How does carbon crediting and revenue sharing work in Makame?**

It's all about conserving forests that would otherwise have been destroyed. When Makame's forests are successfully conserved, Carbon Tanzania is issued carbon credits by an independent standard. You can understand this process as the standard saying: 'We have reviewed your work, found it meets our quality criteria and now we can confidently say, based on historical records and current trends in similar forests, less carbon has entered the atmosphere thanks to your work'.

Each carbon credit represents one tonne of carbon dioxide (or an equivalent volume of another greenhouse gas) that has been removed or prevented from entering the atmosphere. Carbon Tanzania sells these credits to companies and shares 61 per cent of the sales revenue with the natural resource owners.

Carbon Tanzania pays people from the villages to work as Carbon Champions. They make sure people understand the importance of forests for fighting climate change, how carbon credits work and what revenue sharing means for them. It's in everyone's interest to stop deforestation. Globally, it's a necessary part of mitigating climate change. Locally, more standing trees also mean more credits, and more credit sales mean more revenue to spend on our village projects, such as building classrooms and school dormitories.

### **How did different people in the community feel about participating in this project?**

During 2024, the five villages in the WMA earned more than US\$1.3 million of carbon revenue and, naturally, Carbon Tanzania wanted to know how

people felt about their earnings. So they asked me to work with social scientists to find out. We ran focus groups and conducted surveys to ask how people had experienced changes in their lives, how important any changes had been to them and whether they associated these with carbon revenue. For this study, the Carbon Champions visited every boma [homestead] in the WMA with an iPad, causing quite a lot of excitement if any children were home! However, once any kids had had a good look at the tablet, an adult would complete our survey on behalf of the household.

### **How did you decide how to invest your carbon revenue?**

Our survey revealed that, across the five villages, people generally shared the same strong values, which likely made the process of deciding how to spend carbon revenue much easier. Most people agreed that securing land and educating their children were their greatest priorities.

Across Makame, 94% of people said they value their children's education highly. Undoubtedly, this is why the communities decided to build classrooms and dormitories and fund higher education places with the carbon revenue they earned from Carbon Tanzania.

### **How are these projects impacting people in the villages in Makame?**

Now these projects are complete, children who live far away from school can more easily and safely attend classes, and teenagers can go on to complete specialist training. These are both likely reasons why 84% of respondents said that their children are attending school because of carbon revenue.

Perhaps unsurprisingly given our relationship to our lands, the study also revealed how highly people value the additional protections the project places upon their land. Villagers can report signs of suspicious activity to the VGS, who regularly patrol the WMA to guard against encroachment. The WMA also employs VGS to spot signs of encroachment and poaching. With their lands more secure, many people in my Masai community reported better grazing for their livestock, reducing their financial stresses.



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