



carbontanzania
Protecting forests for communities, wildlife, and climate

Makame Savannah project

Protecting forests for pastoralists, wildlife and climate

The Masai people have been herding cattle throughout the Rift Valley for 2,000 years. In the Makame Savannah project area they continue to live this traditional lifestyle in the wildlife-rich forests. They depend on their cattle herds for survival in an unpredictable environment. The Makame Savannah project, situated in a Wildlife Management Area (WMA), protects 364,322 ha dryland forests and conserves critical habitat for protected wildlife by engaging with the Masai to set up community land use plans that use seasonal grazing areas to keep their cattle, themselves, and the ecosystem healthy.



Threats to the environment

The location of the Makame Savannah Project on the southern border of the Tarangire Manyara ecosystem makes it essential habitat for both endangered and migratory wildlife. The population within the region is rapidly expanding with large numbers of immigrant farmers seeking new land to grow crops and rear livestock.

Forests and woodlands are seen as unused and converted to agricultural land. This change in land use has led to a deforestation rate in the area that is nine times the national average. Land use change threatens the region's extensive biodiversity and has the potential to lead to violent conflict between the traditional users of the land and those seeking to use the natural resources within the project area illegally.

Climate change mitigation

Preventing deforestation can mitigate 25% of global emissions, while safeguarding important biodiversity. Forest conservation is one of the most cost-effective ways to mitigate climate change, and also brings about positive and measurable economic, social and environmental benefits to local communities.

Tanzania currently loses approximately 1-2% of forests every year, contributing to approximately 70% of the country's national emissions. The Makame Savannah conservation project is reversing this trend, reducing Tanzania's rate of forest loss.

Land rights and forest protection

The best stewards of forests are the indigenous people that have been living in those ecosystems for

thousands of years. The creation of the Makame WMA and its resource plan has given the Masai communities legal user-rights over their land and the ability to reserve areas for seasonal grazing. This structure empowers the communities to protect critical grazing areas from illegal immigrant farmers, areas which form the basis of the project area.

The Makame project empowers the Masai to earn carbon revenues through the protection of their dryland forests. This triple bottom line solution shows that climate mitigation impacts can be achieved while also protecting nature and supporting rural livelihoods. It demonstrates that climate justice is inextricably linked to a respect for indigenous peoples' rights.

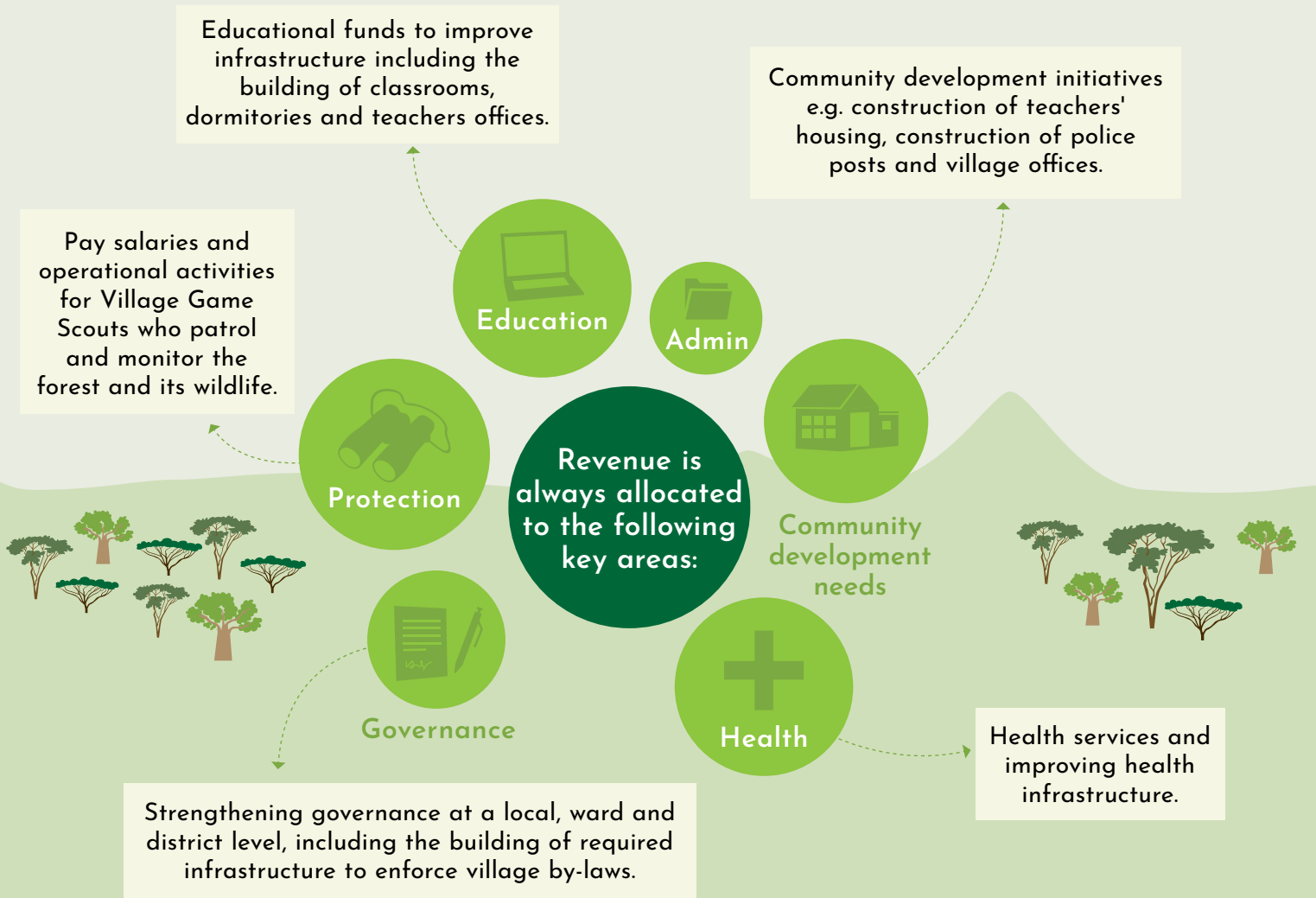
Biodiversity

Ecosystems across the planet are losing biodiversity at a truly alarming rate. By protecting natural habitat and by patrolling these ecosystems to prevent poaching, wildlife is provided with the opportunity to return and thrive in the protected area. Carbon Tanzania is demonstrating that wildlife and people do not need to be separated in order to protect large tracts of wilderness.

The Makame Savannah project area is a critical habitat for wildlife in the Tarangire-Manyara ecosystem, providing a wet season dispersal range for elephants, eland and other nomadic mammals, while also being a breeding site for the endangered African Hunting Dog. It is the largest community protected area in Tanzania and is the first WMA to earn revenues from a carbon credit project. Since 2019 the team of 27 Village Game Scouts have worked with community members to reduce poaching incidents by 90%.

Where the money goes

The revenue earned from the sale of certified carbon credits is paid directly to forest communities, allowing them to manage their own development needs. The communities receive their revenue in bi-annual payments when the villagers come together to determine how to share the revenue.



Impacts

Verified by:



268,000 trees protected in 2022

364,000 ha protected



US\$580,593 earned by communities in 2023

32 VGS

5 women VGS recruited in 2023

US\$485,430 spent on improving healthcare services and facilities

32 VGS trained in 2023

13,197 women with improved livelihoods

US\$124,194 spent on improving access to education

48 university students with fees paid for by carbon revenue