



Natural
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Natural Climate Solutions in Action

Yaeda-Eyasi Landscape

Project/Program Type	The Yaeda-Eyasi Landscape Project is a community-led REDD+ project that calculates carbon credits based on avoided deforestation. Its credits are verified using the Plan Vivo Standard and sold by Carbon Tanzania.
Description	The project works with the Hadza hunter-gatherers and 12 villages to protect the forest on which they depend to sustain traditional lifestyles and develop local economies. The project strengthens land tenure, management capacity and local natural resource management, and diversifies local incomes. Successful avoided deforestation is achieved through a series of interventions including reinforcing the implementation of the approved village land use plan and associated village by-laws, improving forest conservation and management activities and addressing the primary driver of deforestation, shifting agriculture. The community members are trained to patrol and report any land use change and / or poaching activities which contribute to tackling illegal land intrusion and resulting land conversion at both local and district level.
Location	The project is located in the Mbulu and Karatu Districts of northern Tanzania.
Scale	The project protects 110,000 hectares within a larger area of 238,000 hectares of community-owned land.
Number of Credits Issued to Date	344,284
Project Proponent	Carbon Tanzania



Impacts

Impact To-Date

Since 2011, the project area has quintupled in size and grown from two to 12 villages. It protects 171,000 trees, resulting in avoided emissions of 177,000 tons of carbon dioxide every year. Deforestation and poaching have reduced within the project area improving the ability of the Hadza people to use the protected land to practice their traditional hunter-gatherer lifestyle, while securing their cultural identity, which is entirely dependent on a healthy ecosystem. 57 people are directly employed in forest conservation with 61,000 people benefiting from strengthened land and resource rights and an increase in revenue into the community. With the reduction in deforestation and poaching, wildlife numbers are improving with giraffe sightings increasing by 68%.

Projected Longer-Term Impact

Clearly defined land-use plans and village bylaws will continue to reduce land incursions in the project area, leading to better governance and stability. The payments from ecosystem services will help indigenous communities protect their traditional lifestyles and build resilience to climate change.



REDD+ Is Helping One of the World's Oldest Hunter-Gatherer Communities Protect Its Land

Samuel Omary learned to hunt with a bow and arrow as a child in a Hadza tribe in northern Tanzania. "Hunting and gathering is the only way we get our food, and we share it equally," Samuel says. "Communalism still exists in the Hadza way of life." Samuel did not attend primary school, however, because the Hadza lifestyle produced no income to pay his school fees. "My parents thought that this could never happen because of the non-economic nature of our way of life," he says.

The lack of income created other problems for the Hadza, who have lived as hunters and gatherers since prehistoric times. They struggled to protect their lands from incursion by farmers from neighboring communities, who destroyed forest and reduced the area for hunting game and gathering medicinal and edible plants. "One hundred percent of our life is directly depending on the forest," says Jenero Sela, a Hadza community chairperson. As the forest shrank, the Hadza lifestyle became harder to sustain.

Since 2011, however, the REDD+ project called the Yaeda-Eyasi Landscape Project has helped the Hadza people protect their way of life. By quantifying the value of carbon stored in standing forest, REDD+ has allowed the Hadza to sell carbon credits to companies seeking to counterbalance their greenhouse-gas emissions. The carbon revenue has helped the Hadza to protect their forest and traditions—and extend educational opportunities to a new generation. When Samuel was 10, the Yaeda-Eyasi Landscape Project paid to enroll him and

other Hadza children in nearby schools, covering not only their tuition fees but also the costs of uniforms, food and transport. "It's 100 percent support," Samuel says. "My parents don't pay anything."



Samuel Omary
Hadza community
member

Hunting and gathering is the only way we get our food, and we share it equally... Communalism still exists in the Hadza way of life.

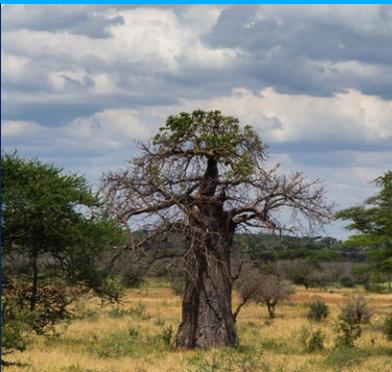
The Yaeda-Eyasi Landscape Project was developed in partnership with a company called Carbon Tanzania. Jo Anderson and Marc Baker, British citizens who worked previously in conservation in Tanzania, came up with the concept in 2007, a year after the United Nations unveiled REDD at COP 13 in Bali. "The conservation world has always been dominated by non-governmental actors," Anderson says. "When REDD emerged, the principles suddenly changed the game for remote areas that weren't already being valued for their tourism potential." He and Baker looked for communities in Tanzania that might benefit from the new market for ecosystem services. The Hadza in northern Tanzania had secured the legal right to their lands but struggled with enforcement.



66% of management roles are filled by women



9 SDGs contributed to by the project



Project has grown from 2 to 12 villages since 2011

1 innovative benefit sharing mechanism

Follow the progress





“Just having the piece of paper doesn’t stop people from coming into farm or graze,” Anderson says.

The Yaeda-Eyasi Landscape Project worked initially with the Hadza and two villages to protect 20,000 hectares of forest. Carbon Tanzania hired a local man named Isack Bryson, who was studying biology in university, as project manager to build ties with the communities. “We told them that their forest is playing a big role in the climate but they are not getting any payment for that ecosystem service,” Bryson says. By hiring game scouts and implementing land-use plans, the villages were able to protect the forest and sell carbon credits based on avoided deforestation. Over the years, ten additional villages joined the project, and the protected area has grown to more than 110,000 hectares.



Isack Bryson
Project Manager
Carbon Tanzania

...their forest is playing a big role in the climate but they are not getting any payment for that ecosystem service.

The revenue from carbon credits has allowed the Hadza and other communities in the Yaeda Valley and Eyasi landscape to hire 120 village game scouts to combat poaching and illegal land incursions. Carbon Tanzania has also worked with the local agricultural and pastoralist communities to develop land-use plans that relieve pressure on forest through practices like seasonal grazing and defining areas for small-scale farming.

As a result, the herds of wild animals are growing. “Since the project began, hunting and gathering has become better,” Sela says. For example, giraffe sightings have increased 68 percent in the project area over five years—even as they decline

across much of Africa. Populations of other charismatic large mammals, like elephants and lions, are stable in the project area.



Jo Anderson
Director
Finance and Sales
Carbon Tanzania

When REDD emerged, the principles suddenly changed the game for remote areas that weren’t already being valued for their tourism potential.

Still, droughts are becoming more frequent due to climate change, and the Hadza have used some of the carbon revenue to purchase food when hunting becomes hard. Sixty percent of the project’s carbon revenue is shared between the communities participating in the project. Each community holds public meetings to decide how to spend its share. It has helped pastoral communities dig water boreholes and manage disease in their herds. Some villages have built classrooms and police stations. Others have used it to improve water access and waste management, and to help their residents pay medical bills.

The Hadza made it a priority to educate 40 children in their community in local schools since the project began. “We need them to get knowledge so that we can compete in the globalizing world,” Sela says. The carbon revenue paid for Samuel to complete his secondary education—and will also pay his tuition at a local university, where he plans to study law. Samuel sees his education as a tool that will help protect his heritage into the future. “Once I complete my bachelor of law, I want to come back to help ensure the Hadza way of life cannot be destroyed,” he says.



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About the NCS Alliance

The NCS Alliance (NCSA) conveys the voice of businesses, NGOs and solution providers on the need to mobilize a high integrity demand for high quality Natural Climate Solutions (NCS). The Alliance focuses on identifying opportunities and barriers to investment in the NCS voluntary carbon market and serves as a forum for knowledge sharing and technical capacity building to ensure natural climate solutions reach their full potential in abating climate change, while also tackling nature loss and socio-economic issues. NCS in Action was established to showcase how NCS are making a real difference in the world today.

For more information visit www.naturalclimatesolutionsalliance.org and follow us on [LinkedIn](#).



Statement of Acknowledgment

The NCS in Action are testimonials designed to highlight the benefits for people and nature associated with NCS projects and programs financed through the voluntary carbon market. The NCS Alliance strongly believes that the voluntary carbon market is necessary for financing NCS projects and programs. It is critical however that it rests on the integrity of the climate benefits, i.e. the ability of credits to truly represent real and verifiable carbon reductions.

The NCS Alliance recognizes the importance of staying up-to-date with the latest science and best practices as carbon-crediting programs evolve. We acknowledge that there have been challenges with certain methodologies and that improvements have not always been made as quickly as necessary. However, we believe that this is a valuable learning-by-doing process and that scaling up NCS is crucial in achieving global 1.5C goals. In support of this, the NCS Alliance will continue to highlight projects and programs in this space while also advocating for consistent improvement in standards and methodologies. For more information about how and when these methodologies are updated see [Verra](#), [Plan Vivo](#), [ACR](#), [ART](#).

NCS in Action is made possible with generous funding support from the We Mean Business Coalition.

Disclaimer

Inclusion of an NCS project or program in the NCS in Action program does not imply a recommendation to purchase, trade or retire credits associated with the project or program.

The NCS Alliance and its members take no responsibility for the purchase, trade or retirement of credits from these projects and programs. Instead, it recommends that individuals, companies and other organisations procuring credits as part of their climate strategies conduct their own independent due diligence to validate the quality and environmental integrity of their purchases.

The NCS Alliance secretariat in no way benefits financially or by other means from the selection.

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