Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard

A VERRA STANDARD

THE KASIGAU CORRIDOR REDD+ PROJECT PHASE I – RUKINGA SANCTUARY

WILDLIFE WORKS

Document Prepared by Wildlife Works Carbon

roPject Title	The Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project Phase I – Rukinga Sanctuary
Version	2.2
Date of Issue	10-August-2022
Project Location	Kenya, Taita Taveta County, Coast Province
Project Proponent(s)	Wildlife Works Carbon LLC.: President – Mike Korchinsky Tel: +1-415-332-8081 Fax: +1-415-332-8057 Email: jeremy@wildlifeworks.com
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Project Lifetime	01 January 2005 – 31 December 2034; 30-year lifetime
History of SD VISta Status	This is the first validation for the Project under the SD VISta Standards.
Other Certification Programs	The Project was validated under the CCB Standard in 2009 and validated under the VCS Standard in 2011. The Project has been subsequently verified under the VCS & CCB Standards through its 7th Monitoring Period, corresponding with the end of 2021. The Project ID is 562.
Expected Future Assessment Schedule	The initial SD VISta verification is happening concurrently with the validation. It is estimated that the Project will verify under the VCS, CCB & SD VISta Standards annually.

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1 SUMMARY OF SDG CONTRIBUTIONS

Table 1: Summary of Project SDG Contributions

Row number	Estimated Project Contribution by the End of Project Lifetime	SDG Target	SDG Indicator	Net Impact on SDG Indicator	Section Reference
1)	Over the 30-year lifetime of the project, the Project will average 51 employees. Of the 51 (30%) will be female and more than 90% will be from the local area (i.e., from one of the Project Zone or larger Taita Taveta County).	1.1	1.1.1 Total number of local community members employed at WW full-time	Increased	Section 3.2 Impact #1
2)	Over the 30-year lifetime of the project, an increasing proportion of community members earning above 10,000 (42%) is expected compared to the baseline (23%).	1.1	1.1.1 Total amount of income earned by household	Increased	Section 3.2 Impact #2
3)	Over the 30-year lifetime of the project, there will be 99% of households with on farm production for home use and 30% of households will sell produce for cash.	2.3	2.3.2 proportion of households with on-farm production for home use and/or sale	Increased	Section 3.2 Impact #3
4)	Over the 30-year lifetime of the project, the medical center will have treated 5,000 patients	3.8	3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services	Increased	Section 3.2

	(250 patients monthly since 2014, each undergoing 1-8 tests depending on the procedure).				Impact #4-5
5)	Over the 30-year lifetime of the project, 5,895 will have received access or improved access to quality education (bursary scheme). 120 training workshops will be held for skills/personal development	4.3	4.3.1 Number of people for whom access to, or quality of, education was improved (# of students, bursary); # training workshops held for skills/personal development	Increased	Section 3.2 Impact #6-7
6)	Over the 30-year lifetime of the project, 38 classrooms will be constructed/ other school renovations.	4.A	Number of classrooms constructed or other school renovations and # of education infrastructure installed	Increased	Section 3.2 Impact #8
7)	Over the 30-year lifetime of the project, 20% of those in managerial positions will be women	5.5	5.5.2 Proportion of staff managers who are women	Increased	Section 3.2 Impact #9
8)	Over the 30-year lifetime of the project, 15 water-related projects will be implemented across KCRPII including pipelines, storage tanks, rock catchments, gutters and water pans for	6.1	6.1.1 # of population using safely managed drinking water services	Increased	Section 3.2 Impact #10

	harvesting across all the project locations in community areas and schools				
9)	* <1% primary level; 2% secondary; 1% tertiary	8.6	8.6.1 Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training	Decreased	Section 3.2 Impact #11
10)	Over the 30-year lifetime of the project, about a half of the population who will be beneficiaries from the livelihood improvements at household level will be female.	10.0	Number of people (% women) with improved livelihoods or income generated	Increased	Section 3.2 Impact #12-13
11)	Over the 30-year lifetime of the project , 32% community members will understand the link between environmental protection, REDD & livelihoods.	12.8	12.8.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment	Increased	Section 3.2 Impact #14
12)	Over the 30-year lifetime of the project, 7,150,706 tCO_2e of net emission reductions from avoided deforestation compared to the reference level during the Project's lifetime is estimated to be produced.	13.0	Net estimated emission reductions in the Project Area, measured against the without-project scenario	Increased	Section 4.2 Impact #18 VCS verification report for the period

					01/01/2021-12/31/2021
13)	Over the 30-year lifetime of the project, 24 community awareness meetings/events/activities on REDD+ will be held.	13.3	13.3.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment	Increased	Section 3.2 Impact #15
15)	30,168.66 ha of the Project Area under conservation management.	15.1	15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area	Maintained	Section 4.2 Impact #19
16)	Over the 30-year lifetime of the project, approximately 9 species listed under some category of threat in the IUCN Red List will be repeatedly observed across the Project Area.	15.5	15.5.1 Presence of HCV species listed under some category of threat globally in the latest IUCN Red List	Maintained	Section 4.2 Impact #20

17)	Over the 30-year lifetime, the Project aims to reduce the poaching and trafficking of protected species (both flora and fauna) across the Project Area.	15.7	Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products	Increased	Section 4.2 Impact #21-22
18)	Over the 30-year lifetime of the project, the project will maintain support for the three local community institutions (Locational Carbon Committee, Bursary Committees and Community-based Organizations) which will continue to instill a stronger sense of self-determination.	16.7	Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels	Maintained	Section 3.2 Impact #16
19)	Over the 30-year lifetime of the project, 48 agriculture-related training courses or extension events will be held.	17.7	Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed	Increased	Section 3.2 Impact #17

2 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1 Project Objectives, Context and Long-term Viability

2.1.1 Summary of Project Sustainable Development Objective(s)

The Project is located in Southeastern Kenya; in the Coast Province about 2 hours' drive from the port town of Mombasa along the Nairobi-Mombasa highway. The Project's Eco-Region is typified by a dryland forest ecosystem, dominated by acacia and commiphora drought-resistant species. The majority of people in the area descend from the Taita tribe, with significant populations of Duruma, Kamba and other less-prevalent tribes.

The Project Area covers all the land known as Rukinga Sanctuary, with a total of 30,168.66 ha (74,516 acres). The land was originally known as LR 12263, which had historically been reduced by subdivisions 12263/1 and 12263/2 at dates prior to the start date of the project.

Rukinga is part of that land that forms a corridor (the Kasigau Wildlife Corridor) between the Tsavo East National Park and the Tsavo West National Parks to the East of the Marungu range. The Project Area and Reference Area are clearly delineated in Figure 1, and the shapefiles representing the boundaries have been made available to the project auditor. Lands within the Project boundary are classified as tropical dryland forest[1] for at least 20 years and has been primary forest throughout recorded history[2].

A primary focus of the Project Activities is to provide improved livelihoods either through direct employment with the Project or introduction of new or improved income-generating activities. On average, Wildlife Works retains a workforce of between 50-53 across the Project Area. In addition to the core project operations, revenue from carbon credit sales is also provided to the Wildlife Works Carbon Trust (WWCT) and is used to fund self-determined community projects.

[1] UN IPCC, Good Practice Guidance for LULUCF, Table 3A.1.8;

[2] The earliest record that has been located is dated 1895 which identifies the area as forested [Hobley 1895 – Upon a Visit to Tsavo and the Taita Highlands – The Geographical Journal 1895 Vol 5 No 6 pp 545-561]

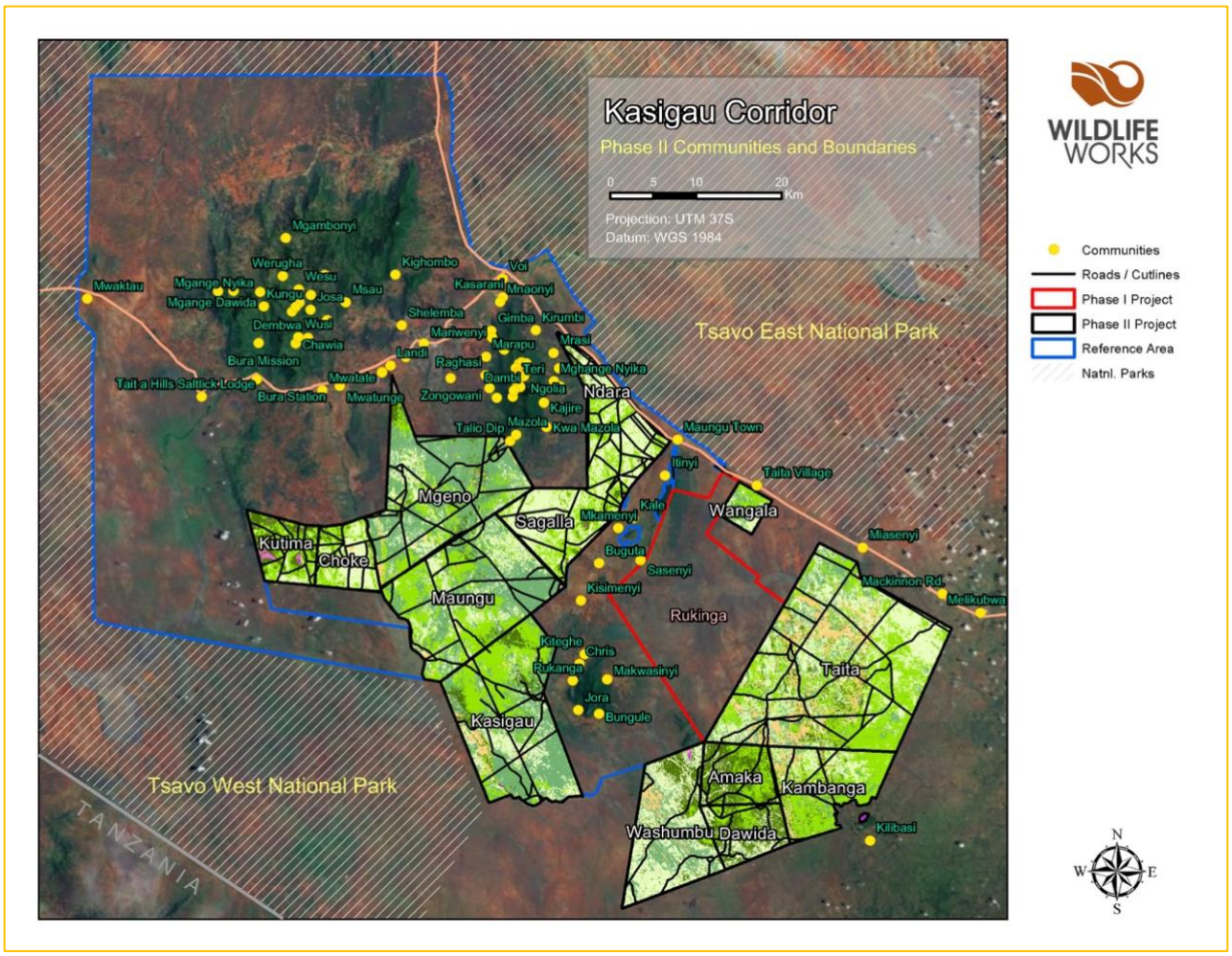

Figure 1: The Project Zone - Communities within the scope of influence of the Kasigau Corridor REDD Project Phase I – Rukinga Sanctuary Project Area.

The KCRPI provides many benefits that will help achieve Kenya's stated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2015, Kenya joined the global community in adopting its SDGs, a set of 17 universal goals covering the thematic areas of environmental, economic and social development. They are structured to help drive national funding and policy decisions. In 2016, Kenya implemented the Vision 2030 plan, a long-term development plan with the goal of transforming Kenya into a newly industrializing, middle-income country that provides a high quality of life to all its citizens by 2030, within a clean and secure environment. These two sustainable development plans are coordinated in their goals and thematic areas. The climate, community and biodiversity benefits provided by KCRPI all contribute to achieving the global and national sustainable development goals detailed in these two plans. These contributing benefits are monitored through KCRPI's CCB & SD VISta monitoring plans. SDGs that KCRPI will directly contribute to include:

- Goal 1: No Poverty
- Goal 2: Zero Hunger

- Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being
- Goal 4: Quality Education
- Goal 5: Gender Equality
- Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
- Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities
- Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- Goal 13: Climate Action
- Goal 15: Life on Land
- Goal 16: Peace Justice and Institutions
- Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals

The Project's climate benefits include the total avoided emission of 3,644,822 tCO_2e during the Project's lifetime. The Project will generate substantial community and biodiversity co-benefits. New and sustainable livelihood opportunities, such as direct employment, alternative income generating activities (IGAs) and initiatives to stimulate investment in businesses will be designed to reduce pressure on the environment while significantly increasing community well-being. Additional programs will address food security, improve health and education facilities, as well as raise environmental awareness. Biodiversity co-benefits will be achieved through greater protection of the ecosystem predominantly by means of increased security and improved monitoring. The Project will also be protecting critical habitat for significant populations of many IUCN red-listed species, including African elephant, Grevy's zebra, Lion, African Wild Dog, Leopard, Cheetah, Secretarybird, Martial Eagle, Bateleur and several vulture species.

2.1.2 Description of the Project Activity

Wildlife Works has been engaged in this project since 1998 and unlike NGOs that set up projects then leave and pay infrequent visits to see how things are going, Wildlife Works has had a hands-on approach since the very beginning. We employ between 50-53 local people in a range of activities that have continued and have been expand upon as a result of carbon financing generated by the project. Wildlife Works has implemented a wide range of sustainable development initiates at Rukinga since the start of the project. These initiatives collectively form the basis of our carbon offset leakage avoidance strategy.

Wildlife Works has held several Social and Biodiversity Impact Assessment (SBIA) community workshops to engage the community in thinking about the key issues they can benefit from the project, how things would have been without the project, how they may be with the Project, and any potential risks and / or negative impacts. When we first began operating on the landscape, we sought out the consent of the surrounding communities and stakeholders. Throughout our

history in the area, we maintained a near constant consultation and feedback gathering process.

With the development of the REDD+ mechanism in 2008, WWC sought to utilize it as a long-term, sustainable funding mechanism. In 2009 WWC began a formal consultative process with the stakeholders of the Project Area and to the surrounding communities. These formed the basis of the first SBIA community workshop held in 2011. The following five Focal Issues were identified by the communities during this initial workshop as the key issues facing the community that the project could help with: (i) Governance: incorporating leadership and gender inclusivity; (ii) Poverty: jobs and income-generating activities; (iii) Human-wildlife conflict; (iv) Environmental degradation: including deforestation and agricultural issues; and (v) Education. The major project activities include:

Wildlife Works Eco-factory

At the onset, our core project, was the construction of the Eco-factory, where we employed over 150 people from the community in the construction phase. Women from the community were then trained and employed in the sewing and production of organic cotton clothing which was exported to the US and Europe for sale on the internet and in fashion boutiques.

The Eco-factory has continued to show stable growth in recent years towards breaking even. However, growth was adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Supported by the international marketing and design team based in California, production was able to remain steady during the pandemic, with the number of employees maintained at 8. Wildlife Works maintained its relationship with the SOKO eco-factory from Mombasa including running of the Stitching Academy in Maungu Town, where potential seamstresses continue to receive specialized skills and training that enable them to directly work in any eco-factory at Wildlife Works' Export Processing Zone (EPZ), or elsewhere. Besides training as seamstresses, these women also acquired new skills for several printing and other support positions, like sales and marketing.

To support production in the EPZ, a printing arm has been established and has grown to nine employees. In addition, the printing arm acts as a local production factory outside of the EPZ and is able to supply local demand, further growing production and local jobs. Wildlife Works established several shop outlets in the big cities and key tourist destinations of Kenya (Nairobi, Mombasa and Lamu) to grow local sales and develop employment opportunities.

In addition, a small Wildlife Works soap factory was established and is still ongoing, with diversified production and maintained the three staff members. Different soaps are produced using locally sourced additives and extracts like jojoba oil, coconut milk and lime and sold to niche markets in Nairobi and Mombasa, mainly consisting of lodges and hotels. While sales were severely disrupted by the COVID-19 restrictions on local and international travel to destinations that serve as key clients, production remains constrained by seasonality and availability of the required additives like jojoba oil.

Project Product Sales and Marketing

Wildlife Works' core mission is to harness the strengths of the marketplace for conservation. Thus, improving access to markets through use of technology remains a critical component of our enterprise development model. Wildlife Works continues to build and improve access to markets for various products in KCRP-Phase I using technology, such as through the Wildlife Works' Export Processing Zone (EPZ) for apparel and Hadithi umbrella CBO for community handicrafts. As of December 2021, 8 local community members (75% women) were trained or employed in Wildlife Works' eco-factory at the EPZ, mainly as seamstresses but also in several printing and other support positions like sales and marketing. The local community-based umbrella organisation, Hadithi, under KCRP Phase 1 now provides marketing and sales support to 10 craft groups, comprising over 273 members, mostly women. Through Hadithi, a substantial amount of revenue from salaries or sales accrues to these local communities, especially directed to women, which greatly empowers them and their societies in general. In 2017 for instance, under KCRP-Phase 1, Hadithi spent KES 735,000 on crafts made by women's group, paid cash in hand to the individual women. This figure rose to KES 1,575,000 in 2018, again paid cash in hand to the individual women. In 2019, KES 2,237,000 was spent on crafts cash in hand to the women (approximately $USD 22,500), growing to KES 2,589,000 (USD 25,800) in 2020. In the 2021 reporting period, Hadithi sales under KCRP Phase 1 grew to KES 4,581,811 (USD 40,191). Besides sales, Hadithi has expanded to providing training. In 2021, basket weaving trainings were provided to thirty two groups where members were trained from scratch and are already able to make baskets to sell.

Organic Greenhouses

The greenhouse project contains two components: (i) the tree nursery and selling point, and (ii) agricultural greenhouses. The greenhouse team responsible for implementing and managing both components was maintained at 4 staff members at the end of the 2021 reporting period. Production has grown and diversified beyond the sale of grafted fruit tree seedlings (like citrus, mango and avocado) to include sale of organically produced vegetables and ornamental plants for landscaping purposes. The selling point established along the main Nairobi-Mombasa Highway continues to grow sales. Throughout the year, the Kulikila Women Group community greenhouse was provided with follow-up support from the Wildlife Works' Greenhouse and Community Outreach Departments on a broad range of their activities.

Wildlife Works runs a Greenhouse tree planting program under which there is a seedling purchase program. The objective is to stock the indigenous tree nursery, buying seedlings of specified trees from the community members, nurturing them to the point they can be out planted, and providing them for free back to the community, mainly through schools and community groups for reforesting the landscape.

Of the indigenous trees bought from the community and nurtured at the Wildlife Works' greenhouse, the five most common species are Vachellia robusta, Gardenia volkensii, Vachellia nilotica, Terminalia prunoides and Sclerocarya birrea. Of the fruit trees grafted and nurtured at the Wildlife Works' greenhouse, the Mango and Avocado root stocks, followed by Apple Mango, Valencia Late and Minneola citrus were the most common plants.

Dryland Farming scheme

Another project activity is working with the Kenyan Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) to cultivate a climate appropriate plant called jojoba that provides a cash crop through its seeds and is extremely drought tolerant. We have studying the impact of various levels of plant maintenance and irrigation on plant seed and oil productivity, with the idea that we can provide local farmers root stock to establish their own plants, and they can know how much they can likely make if they are willing to put a certain level of effort into the plant maintenance.

School Construction and Bursary Scheme

When we started working in the area, there were almost no schoolrooms, and no books, no desks, none of the infrastructure needed for children to have a hope of a decent education. We began with a school building program, and over the years we have partnered with the community and various donors we have identified, to build several classrooms throughout the district. We also have built desks and our original Kenyan manager Alice Ndiga launched a school bursary program, that has sent dozens of local children through private high school, and several on to college.

Ecotourism

Wildlife Works continues to support management of Kivuli Camp within Rukinga Sanctuary. During the reporting period 2021, a total of 135 guests were booked at Kivuli Camp, spending a total of 417 nights and 690 bed-nights. Kivuli Camp remains fully operational and hosts a mix of foreign and local guests including tourists and educational visitors

Wildlife Works Carbon Project Monitoring

We conduct annual monitoring of our carbon inventory by revisiting a statistical sample (20% annually, 100% every five years) of our permanent fixed plots each year to check for degradation or changes in existing stocks, and by acquiring remote sensed imagery to support the absence of large scale deforestation or boundary changes.

We began our project on the 74,490 acre Rukinga Sanctuary as the ownership of the land is clear and clean. We trained some of our staff to perform the tree inventory, and recruited local tree experts from the surrounding communities, who could tell the difference between all the Commiphora and Acacia species present on the sanctuary. Our statistically valid tree sampling protocol determined that there are over 6 Million trees on Rukinga Sanctuary, at a canopy cover of >30%, more than enough to qualify as forest under the UN IPCC AFOLU guidelines. *T*he soil carbon plots were resampled during the curren monitoring period (m8 VCS/CCB). The teams have also worked on the Leakage and Quality Control plots.

Forest and Biodiversity Monitoring

The Monitoring Department has five permanent staff for undertaking social and biodiversity surveys and assessments or collating data on various project impacts collected by other departments; additional staff/volunteers/interns are engaged during survey periods. The

Wildlife Works' Research Camp has been maintained since 2012 and was expanded between 2014-2016 with the establishment of camping grounds, which was furnished and equipped into a fully functional and independent camping facility able to house short-term guests and visiting researchers.

Wildlife Works Rangers

Rukinga is private property, so we have every right to exclude local and immigrant populations from the project area. Unlike most REDD projects Wildlife Works employs our own Rangers to protect the forest from illegal incursions, deforestation and even damage to biodiversity and we have a track record since 1998 of physically protecting the land from all potential deforestation agents. Our success where many other projects have failed in this regard is due to Wildlife Works providing economic alternatives to the community to prevent them from needing to clear more forest for agriculture which creates a partnering relationship with the community and allows our Rangers to be effective even though they are not armed, as they can draw heavily on support from the influential members of the local community.

Wildlife Works has instituted several permanent initiatives to enhance security, especially around poaching including increasing our ranger force to about 25 (with about 10% being women) who undertake daily foot and driving patrols from 3 outposts distributed across KCRP-Phase I. All ranger outposts (bases) are maintained to ensure they remain under good state of repair, especially in terms of reliable solar power and water supply. Because Wildlife Works rangers remain an unarmed force, a working relationship with the KWS Special Operations Teams initiated in 2012 has been maintained and mainstreamed. Currently, KWS has several permanent mobile teams based in the ranches along the Kasigau Corridor (most of which are within the REDD+ Project). The project still operates two gyrocopters to enable aerial surveys almost on a daily basis collecting vital information for security and biodiversity monitoring purposes. This has resulted in both improved monitoring of High Conservation Value species as well as enhanced detection of incidents; over ¼ (25%) of all incidents recorded during the reporting period were originally detected from an aerial patrol. Lastly, Wildlife Works has engaged Sensing Clues (https://sensingclues.org/), to develop and adopt their Cluey App which helps capture and relay ground and aerial patrol data near real-time. This makes it safer for the ranger teams working on the ground and more effective in responding to incidents, especially those detected from the air..

Eco-Charcoal Production Facility

Wildlife Wildlife Works still maintains the eco-charcoal facility that was moved to a larger production area near McKinnon Road township at an area reserved for this production by Taita Ranch. Nine staff members run all the current operations spanning harvesting, carbonation, briquetting and sales. At present, the team can press 1,000-1,500 0.5 kg briquettes every week. The business plan was further supported by the Kenya National Research Fund towards scaling up through mechanization of production and improving sales and marketing. During the reporting period 2021, the mechanized briquette press, a grinder, and mixer were sourced for producing smaller pillow-shaped briquettes, in addition to an improved kiln which was

fabricated and tested on-site. Full mechanization of the production process will enable scaling up to semi-commercial status.

Support in establishing the Tsavo and Rukinga Conservancies

Progress towards establishing and formal registration of the Tsavo Conservancy has slowed down since 2018-2019 due to bureaucratic uncertainties around the registration process under Kenya's devolved governance structure. The Kenya Wildlife Conservancy Association has since ironed out the process with KWS and County Governments so it can be picked up again. Nonetheless, Wildlife Works remains committed to supporting the process once it is back on track, and in the meantime is actively laying the groundwork, including raising the profile and building the reputation of the area through its involvement with developing Kivuli and Satao Camps which are likely to be the Conservancy's hub. Additionally, Wildlife Works is supporting Rukinga Wildlife Sanctuary's application to formally receive conservancy status.

Wildlife Works Health Projects

WWildlife Works is committed to supporting community projects as we feel these can be the most important tools to developing self-sufficient and self-governing communities. One of our main focuses is on education, especially for women and girls, but also for male students. During the reporting period-2021, health education through our girl-child programme that targets girls from vulnerable families held 2 sexual health and sanitation training sessions for 72 girls and boys on sexual health, sanitation and drug abuse in various schools within KCRP-Phase I. Additionally, 39 re-usable sanitary pads were distributed to the girls.

Community Wildlife Scouts

Wildlife Works maintains a community-based wildlife monitoring scheme, currently expanded to 3 areas within KCRP-Phase I: Makwasinyi; Buguta; and Kale-Birikani. In each of these sites, a community member records all incidences of key wildlife (High Conservation Value) sightings and human-wildlife conflict. In addition to collecting information that can feed into the national compensation scheme (run by KWS), these data show trends and patterns of crop-raiding and livestock predation, which Wildlife Works uses plan for swift response actions (e.g., deploying deterrents) and other mitigation measures. In the 2021 reporting period, a total of 407 incidents were recorded involving seven species: buffalo, bushpig, eland, elephant, leopard, lion, and spotted hyaena. about third (33%) did not do any damage, 31% and 30%, respectively, damaged crops (including fruit trees) and livestock; the rest damaged other property and infrastructuremaintains a community-based wildlife monitoring scheme, currently expanded to 3 areas within KCRPI: Makwasinyi; Sasenyi; and Kale/Buguta/Mkamenyi/Birikani. In each of these sites, a community member records all incidences of key wildlife (High Conservation Value) sightings and human-wildlife conflict. In addition to collecting information that can feed into the national compensation scheme (run by KWS), these data show trends and patterns of crop-raiding and livestock predation, which Wildlife Works uses plan for swift response actions (e.g., deploying deterrents) and other mitigation measures

2.1.3 Implementation Schedule

Table 2: The Project implementation schedule

Date	Milestone(s) in the Project's Development and Implementation
01 January 2005	Start of Project activity, protection of forest from deforestation and degradation, Project Start Date,
2007 - Present	Tree Nursery
Since project start (2005) - Present	Jojoba propagation
Since project start (2005) – Present	Wildlife Works Greenhouses and selling point
Since project start (2005) – Present	Reforestation of Mt. Kasigau and surrounding area
Since project start (2005) – Present	Wildlife Works Carbon Trust: School Construction and Renovations, Infrastructure provision, Bursary Scheme, Agri-business, and Water and health-related Projects.
Since project start (2005) – Present	Community Wildlife Scouts
Since project start (2005) – Present	Forest and Biodiversity Monitoring
Since project start (2005) – Present	Project Product Sales and Marketing
Since project start (2005) – Present	Security and Ranger Patrols
Since project start (2005) – Present	REDD+ Carbon Inventory Monitoring
Expansion completed in October 2011 Print factory opened in November 2011	Eco Factory Expansion and Print Factory
27 April 2011	CCB Validation
13 May 2011	VCS Validation
13 May 2011	VCS Verification M_1
25 May 2011	CCB Verification M_1
Built in 2012 – Maintained to the Present	Group Ranch Office Renovations/Construction

30 November 2012	VCS Verification M_2
05 December 2012	CCB Verification M_2
2012 - Present	Support to Community Based Organizations: Sagalla Conservation and Development Forum (SCDF), Mwatate District Stakeholders' Forum (MDSF) and Mwachabo Development Forum (MDF), Marungu Hill Conservancy Forum (MHC), Kasigau Development Trust (KDT) and Mackinnon Road CBO.
Started in testing phase 2011, moved to new facility on Taita Ranch early 2013 – Present	Wildlife Works Eco-Charcoal Production Facility
New building operating from 2013 – Present	Wildlife Works Soap Factory
21 May 2013	VCS/CCB Verification M_3
2013 - Present	Local Production Clothing Factory
2013 – Present (some operations disrupted by COVID-19)	Wildlife Works Health Projects
2014 - Present	Support to Establishing/Maintaining the Tsavo Conservancy
02 September 2015	VCS/CCB Verification M_4
24 August 2018	VCS/CCB Verification M_5
Officially opened in 2019 - Present	Ecotourism Projects: Kivuko Eco Camp in Taita
12 June 2020	VCS/CCB Verification M_6
06 December 2021	VCS/CCB Verification M_7
16 May 2022	Date Project Submitted for Listing under the SD VISta program of Verra
22 - 29 June 2022	VCS/CCB M_8 Verification, and SD VISta Validation & Verification Field Audit

2.1.4 Project Proponent

Organization Name	Wildlife Works Carbon

Role in the Project	Project Proponent
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Title	Founder and CEO
Address	242 Redwood Highway, Mill Valley CA 94941 USA
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2.1.5 Other Entities Involved in the Project

No other entities are involved in KCRPI.

2.1.6 Project Type

The Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project Phase I project falls under the VCS sectoral scope 14: – Agriculture. Forestry, and Other Land Uses (AFOLU), under the categories Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD). Specifically, the Project falls under the REDD+ category of Avoided Unplanned Deforestation (AUD). The Project is eligible under these categories by the definitions provided in the VCS AFOLU Requirements version 3.4 published 8 October 2013 by virtue of the fact that it prevents emissions that would have otherwise taken place through unplanned deforestation and/or native grassland conversion.

KCRPI is not a Grouped Project type under the VCS standard nor the CCB Programmatic approach.

2.1.7 Project Location

KCRPI is located in Southeastern Kenya, in Taita Taveta County, Coast Province. It is approximately 150 km northwest of the city of Mombasa. As part of the 2010 ratification of the Kenyan Constitution, counties were introduced as new geographical administrative units. These counties number the same as the old districts (47), but there were significant governance changes following the elections of 2013, including devolution to a new two-level governance system, which sees only national and county governments.

The Project Area covers all the land known as Rukinga Sanctuary, with a total of 30,168.66 ha (74,516 acres). The land was originally known as LR 12263, which had historically been reduced by subdivisions 12263/1 and 12263/2 at dates prior to the start date of this project.

Rukinga is part of that land that forms a corridor (the Kasigau Wildlife Corridor) between the Tsavo East National Park and the Tsavo West National Parks to the East of the Marungu range. The Project Area and Reference Area are clearly delineated in Figure 1, and the shapefiles representing the boundaries have been made available to the project auditor. Lands within the Project boundary are classified as tropical dryland forest[3] for at least 20 years and has been primary forest throughout recorded history[4].

The Project is located in Southeastern Kenya; in the Coast Province about 2 hours' drive from the port town of Mombasa along the Nairobi-Mombasa highway. The Project's Eco-Region is typified by a dryland forest ecosystem, dominated by acacia and commiphora drought-resistant species. The majority of people in the area descend from the Taita tribe, with significant populations of Duruma, Kamba and other less-prevalent tribes. More detailed information concerning the social, economic and geographic attributes of the Project Zone can be found in the Project's CCB PDD.

There have been no changes to the Project Area location or maps since the publication of the VCS and CCB Project Documents (PDs).

[3] UN IPCC, Good Practice Guidance for LULUCF, Table 3A.1.8;

[4] The earliest record that has been located is dated 1895 which identifies the area as forested [Hobley 1895 – Upon a Visit to Tsavo and the Taita Highlands – The Geographical Journal 1895 Vol 5 No 6 pp 545-561]

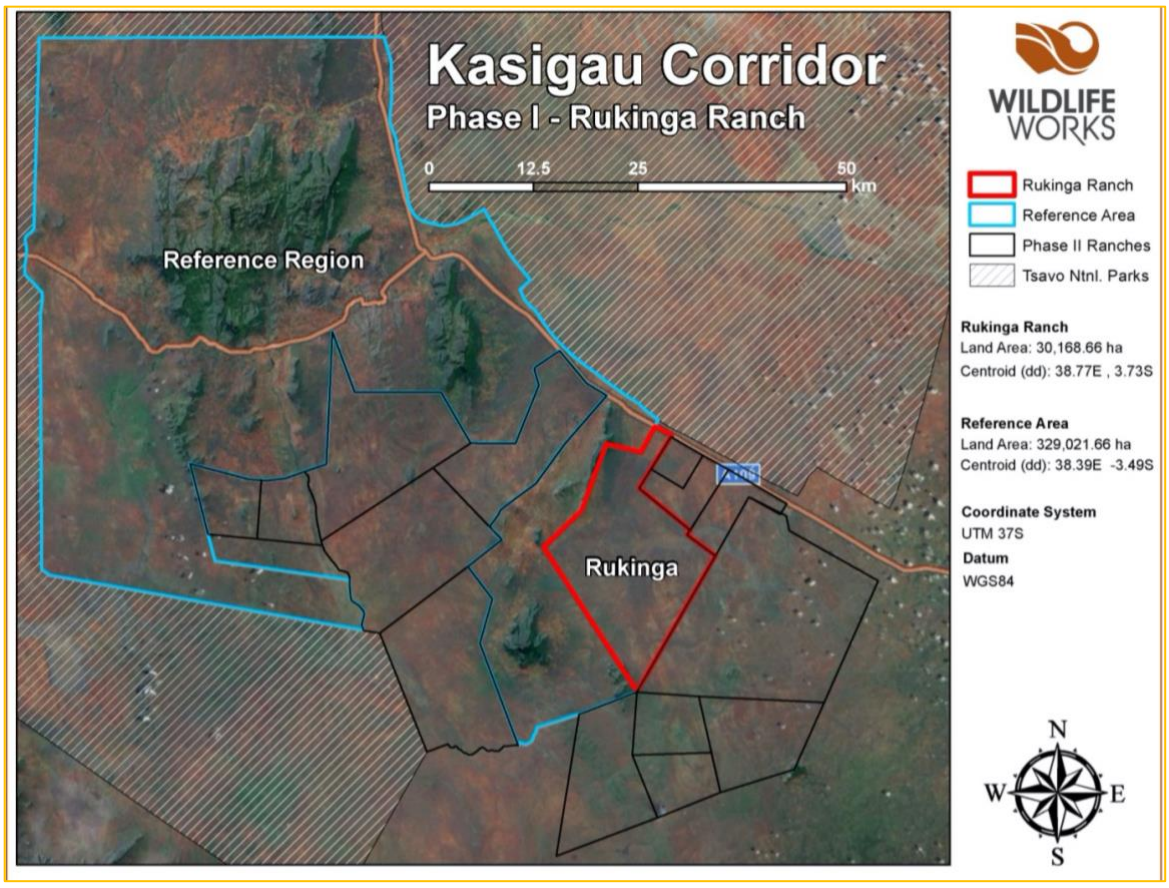


Figure 2: The Kasigau Corridor REDD Project Phase I – Rukinga Sanctuary Project Area and Reference Area Spatial Boundaries.

The KCRPI Project Area, along with the neighbouring community group ranches that make up the KCRPII Project Area, are part of that land that forms a corridor (the Kasigau Wildlife Corridor) between Tsavo East and Tsavo West National Parks, located to the Southeast of the Taita Hills, an area of high conservation value and the northern most extent of the Eastern Arc Mountain range (see map above).

There are several Kenyan Administrative Locations (sub-districts) associated with the Project Area, with a total population of over 350,000 people. Approximately 15,000 people reside within 5 km of the Project boundaries within the two Locations (Marungu and Kasigau) included in the KCRPI Project Zone. Figure 1 displays the combined Project Zone for both KCRPI and KCRPII projects, which stipulates locations of the communities directly involved with / affected by KCRPI.

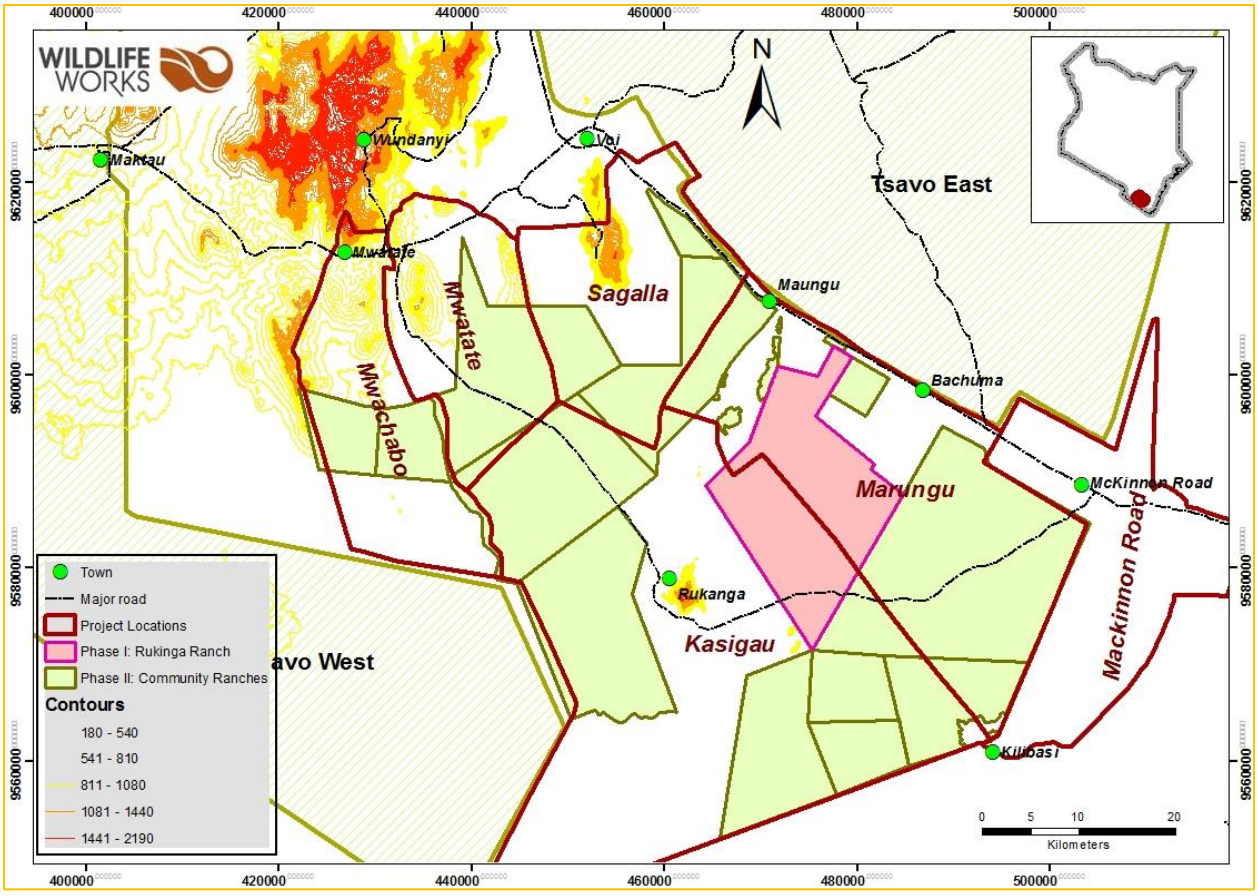


Figure 3: The six Locations in the Project Zone with which the project works with.

2.1.8 Baseline Scenario

The baseline scenario for the KCRPI project is rapid deforestation due to unplanned slash and burn agricultural expansion by subsistence immigrants at the frontier of human expansion. All conditions of the baseline were in place before the arrival of Wildlife Works and in fact the Project Area was already beginning to be cleared prior to the Proponent's interventions. In the absence of the project activities to protect the Project Area and to provide alternative livelihoods for the community, the pattern of deforestation would continue, and land-use conversion would accelerate from an increasing human population base.

The Project Area has previously been used for grazing of cattle and for ecotourism. Both activities failed due to lack of funds, and cattle ranching is difficult due to a fragile ecosystem and lack of water, which lead to the sale of the land to the current owners. Afforestation of plantation species and agricultural activities cannot profitably be carried out in the area due to a lack of water and a fragile ecosystem. Therefore, the project activities attempt to provide economic alternatives that protect the project area from slash and burn use by local communities and create sustainable livelihoods that were previously non-existent.

There are no significant sources of income from the land to offset the necessary protection costs, and therefore the project would eventually fail financially if funding from the Voluntary Carbon Market were not made available. In the absence of active protection, both physical and that created by partnering with the communities to create economic alternatives, it is clear the land in the Project Area would be cleared aggressively for subsistence agriculture.

The local agents of deforestation in our project area are Taita people who have traditionally farmed the fertile cloud forested hills of the Eastern Arc Mountains, Kasigau, and the Taita Hills. As their population exceeded the carrying capacity of the land on the hills they moved down into the dryland acacia-commiphora forest that dominates the lower elevations of the district. However here their traditional farming practices did not work, due to extremely low average rainfall, so after colonizing all the land with permanent water sources they began to clear any available unprotected land. The larger blocks of remaining land in the area outside of communally owned land protected by local administrations were privately held group ranches designated as cattle carrying areas for the communities of the hills back in the 1970s. However due to the remoteness of these areas and the lack of permanent water sources, they had never been developed as cattle ranches, and remained natural forest over the years, until the mid 1990s when rainfall patterns initiated a population boom in the area facilitated by the improvement of the main Mombasa highway and a local arterial road that runs right along the edge of the Rukinga project area.

The immigrant agents of deforestation in our project area are Duruma from over one hundred kilometers away in Coast province, a very poor tribe that has historically opportunistically and illegally sought farm land that was unprotected throughout Kenya. These people were first introduced to our district in the early 1990s brought in by a corrupt politician who promised them land (not owned by him) in return for votes…once they realized they could find unprotected land in the district, more and more families came.

Both these populations began aggressively converting land in the late 1990s just prior to our arrival on the scene in 1999. As soon as we made it impossible to take free land, the immigration stopped, and in fact many families returned to the Coast.

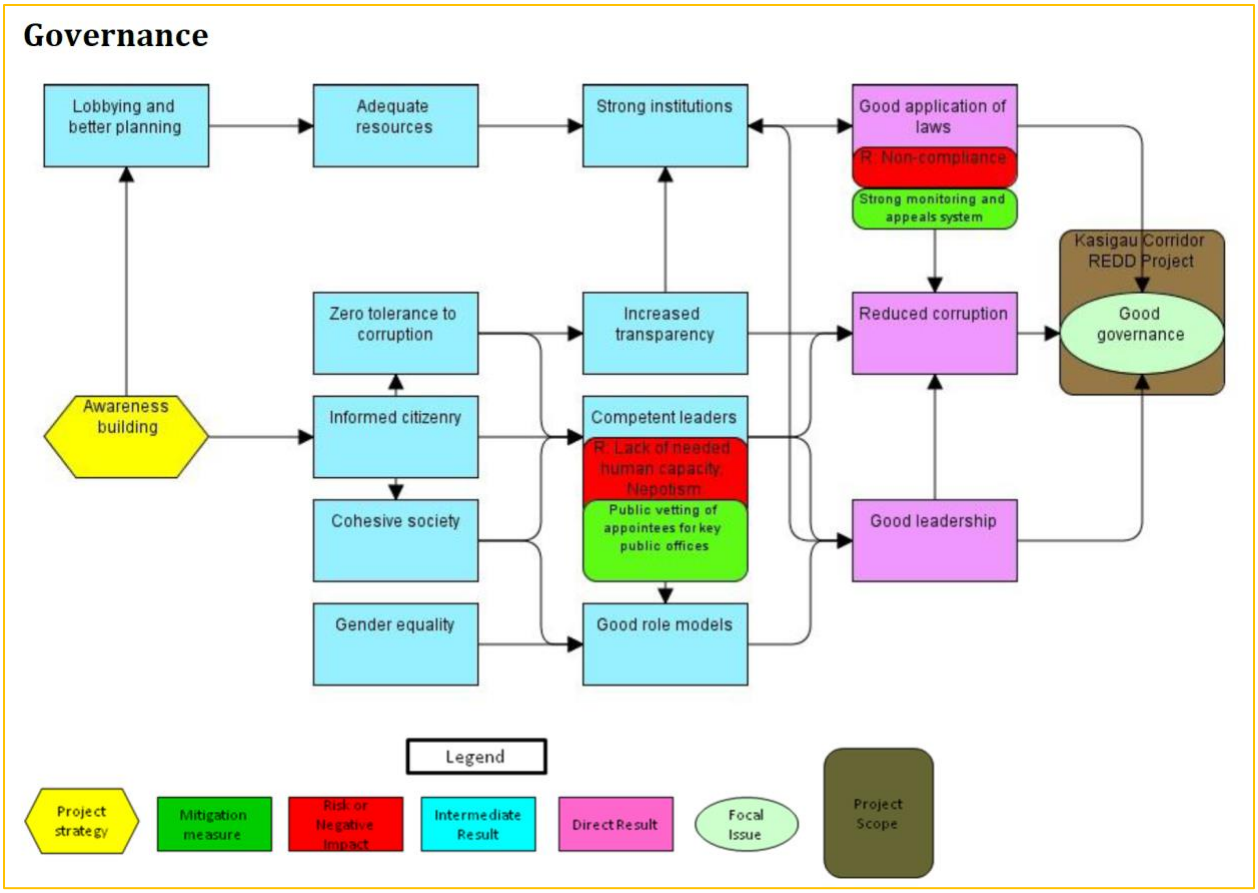
2.1.9 Causal Chain(s)

In measuring and monitoring impacts of KCRPI on local communities, Wildlife Works applies the cause-and-effect logic (causal model) and associated theories of change. A theory of change is a hypothesis about how a project intends to achieve its intended objectives. Since they are based on several assumptions about the cause-and-effect relationships, carefully selected indicators are needed to monitor these assumptions in a causal chain analysis. The main strength of this logic lies in presenting a credible response to the challenge of attribution: indicators measure progress towards achieving the desired project outcomes and impacts from project activities and strategies. To this end, Wildlife Works holds Social and Biodiversity Impact Assessment (SBIA) community workshops to engage the community in thinking about the key

issues they can benefit from the project, how things would have been without the project, how they may be with the Project, and any potential risks and / or negative impacts.

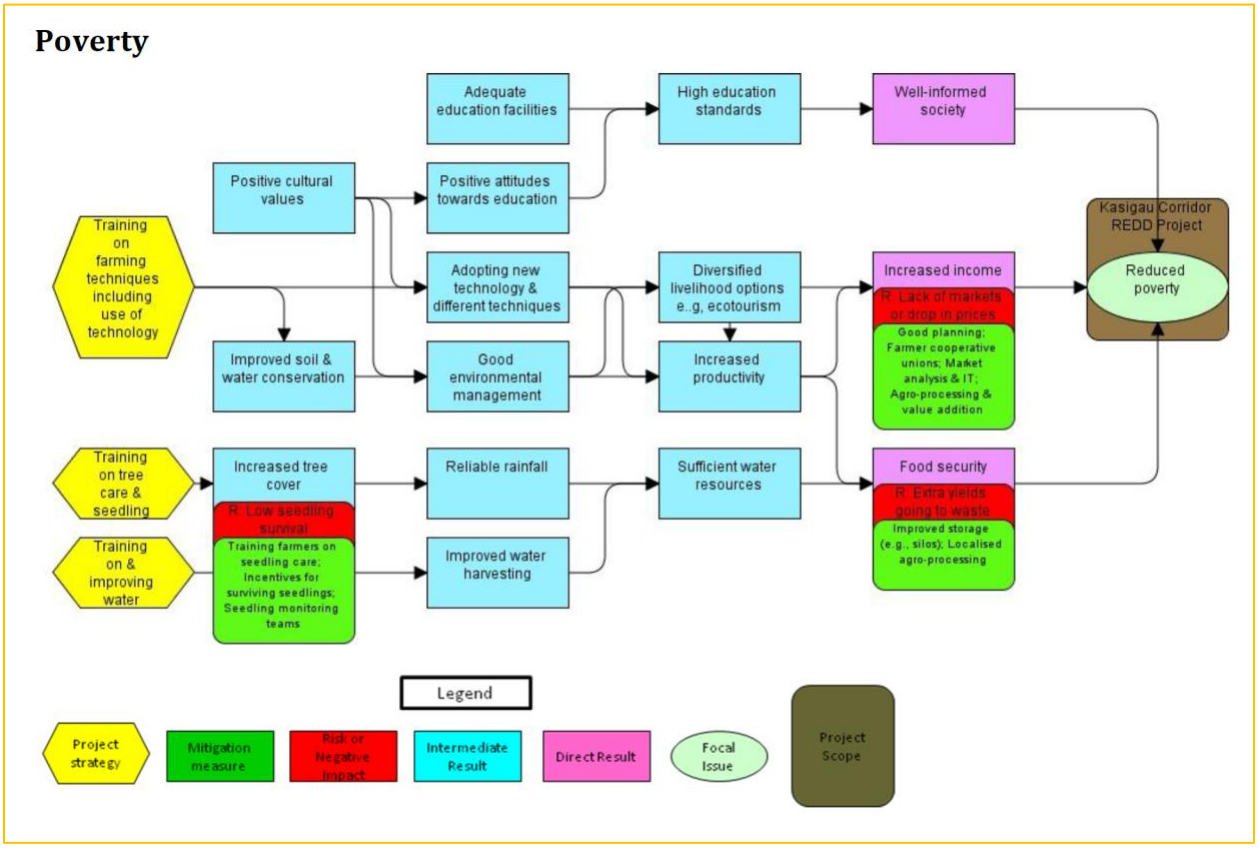
Wildlife Works has had a permanent, on-the-ground presence in this area since 1998 in the KCRPI region. When we first began operating on the landscape, we sought out the consent of the surrounding communities and stakeholders. Throughout our history in the area, we maintained a near constant consultation and feedback gathering process. With the development of the REDD+ mechanism in 2008, WWC sought to utilize it as a long-term, sustainable funding mechanism. In 2009 WWC began a formal consultative process with the stakeholders of the Project Area and to the surrounding communities. These formed the basis of the first SBIA community workshop held in 2011. The following five Focal Issues were identified by the communities during this initial workshop as the key issues facing the community that the project could help with: (i) Governance: incorporating leadership and gender inclusivity; (ii) Poverty: jobs and income-generating activities; (iii) Human-wildlife conflict; (iv) Environmental degradation: including deforestation and agricultural issues; and (v) Education.

After the working groups identified and prioritized these five Focal issues, they were then analysed to further establish the causal logic leading to the problems and produced a Problem Flow Diagram (PFD) also known as a Result Chain Diagram. These originally formed the basis of CCB indicator identification and the KCRPI monitoring plan (the original workshop proceedings are available and can be provided on request) and also informed the selected SDGs in which are impacted by the project.



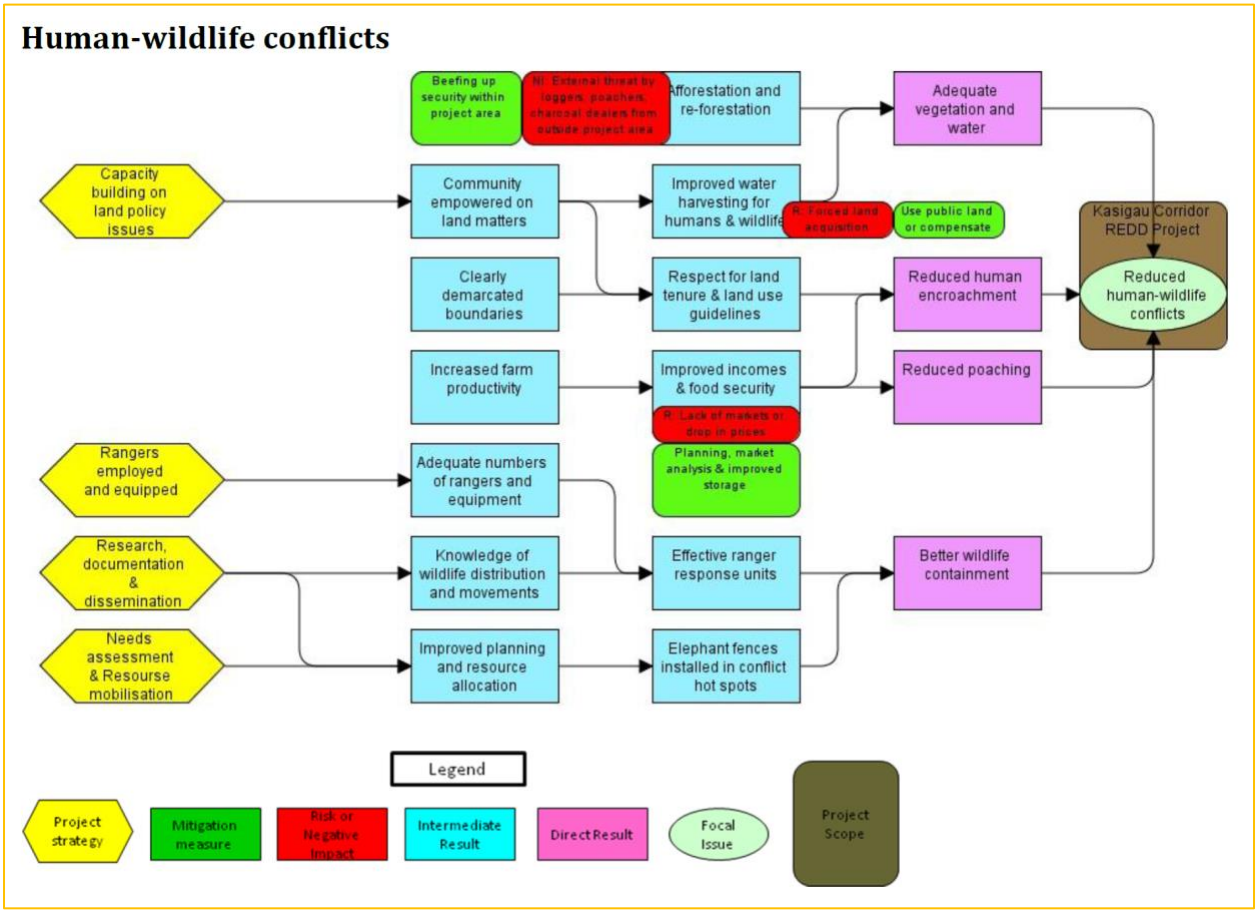
a) **Focal Issue i: Governance: incorporating leadership and gender inclusivity**

IF there is a knowledgeable and well-informed citizenry, IF there are competent leaders providing good leadership and building strong institutions, and IF the rule of law is upheld, THEN we shall have good governance.



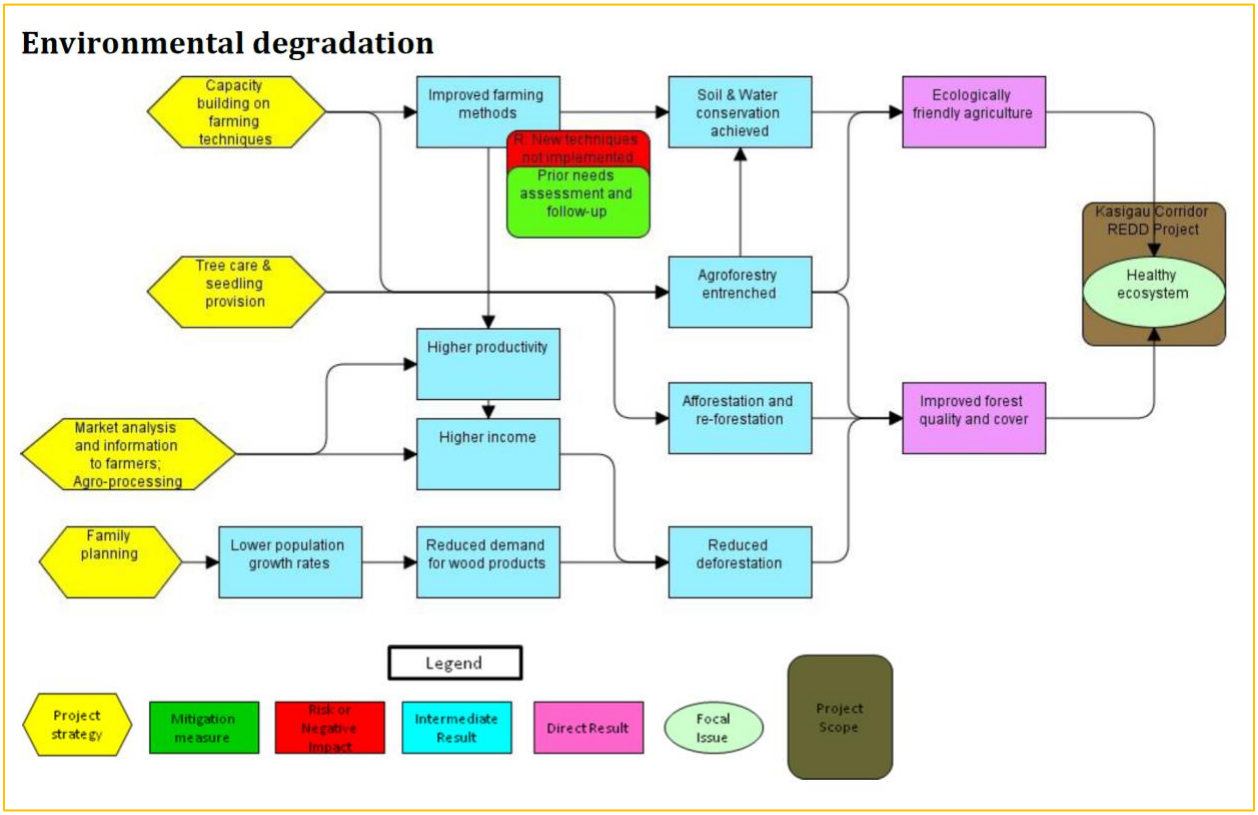
b) Focal Issue ii: Poverty: jobs and income-generating activities

IF we have a well-informed (knowledgeable) society and IF improved environmental management supports diverse income-generating activities and assures food security for all households, THEN poverty shall be reduced.



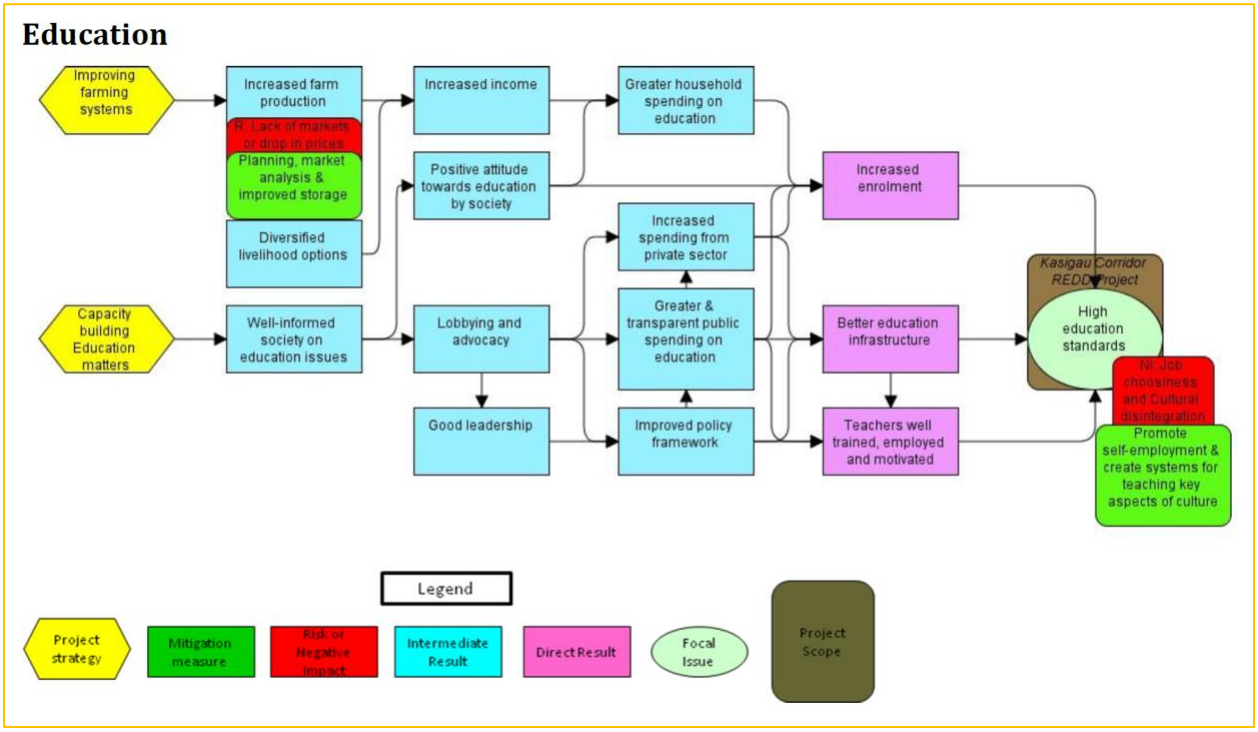
c) Focal Issue iii: Human-wildlife conflict

IF there water harvesting and wildlife habitats were improved, IF wildlife was better managed and controlled within their habitats, and IF food security was assured and incomes increased, THEN human-wildlife conflict will be reduced.



d) Focal Issue iv: Environmental degradation: including deforestation and agricultural issues

IF the community implements improved farming methods, IF tree planting is practiced in agricultural and deforested areas, and IF land tenure is secured, THEN environmental degradation will diminish and tree cover increase leading to healthy ecosystems



e) **Focal Issue v: Education**

IF the society develops a positive attitude towards education, IF there is sustained funding for the education sector by the Government and other donors, and if all education resources are properly used, THEN we will achieve high education standards.

Figure 4: Results chains underlining the Theory of Change Logic for the identified coal issues for KCRPI

These casual chains were originally developed under the CCB v.2 process and have since evolved with the Project. Five follow up SBIA workshops have been held (2013, 2014, 2015, 2017 and 2019) following up on these issues by reviewing project implementation issues and household survey data, plus assessing whether there have been any major changes or emerging issues.

2.1.10 Threats to the Project

Identified major threats that could impact the Project are as follows:

- Changes in legislation – government expropriating land through e.g. a compulsory purchase for development scheme. As the Government of Kenya has been supportive of KCRPI and there is no recent history of expropriation of private conservation lands, this risk is considered very low. We will continue to seek international press for our Project,

as keeping it in the spotlight promotes awareness, and reminds the Government of the value it is adding to the country of Kenya.

- Income – risk that revenue from the sale of carbon credits falls short of Projected sales or credit prices to sustain the Project's solvency. Financial sustainability was modeled at extremely conservative carbon offset credit sale values and volumes. This Project is a very popular Project with high potential value in the marketplace. The likelihood of financial insolvency is therefore deemed to be very low.

- Crop failure - substantial and repeated crop failure in surrounding communities could lead to increased poaching and use of the forests for financial benefit. This risk is high. The majority of alternative economic development efforts are aimed at mitigating this risk.

- Invasion of cattle grazers due to famine in adjacent communities, or lack of grazing elsewhere - Although an influx of cattle would affect herbaceous vegetation (grasses) in the Project area, it would not result in a significant carbon stock change. This risk is considered to be moderate, especially as Somalis have used the land in this area to feed and water their cattle over the years, sometimes with permission from landowners and sometimes without. However, given the increasing aridity in the area, we believe Somali cattle herders will be forced to look elsewhere for rangelands. We will apply carbon funding to increase ranger patrolling to better protect the Project Area from illegal incursion.

- Drought – drought is an increasing reality in this region of Kenya. We anticipate that climate change will worsen this problem throughout the Project crediting period. Drought inherently introduces two additional risks:

- Wildlife – drought places severe stress on wildlife in the Project Area. However, many of the species living in this ecosystem are extraordinarily drought-adapted, and have little problem surviving for extended dry spells. For those that aren't, we plan to continue to provide emergency water sources at all the ranches in the Project Area. More detail on this issue is provided in the CCB PDD in Section GL1.2.

- Cash crops – drought will render the survival of cash crops, such as Jojoba and citrus more difficult. These high value cash crops will be planted sparingly so as to minimize water demand. Additionally, they require much less water than a comparable maize field, and can survive higher temperatures, provided they receive some water. Farmers will be able to provide this in order to preserve the financial value of the crop under Project funding.

- Fire – grass fires are common in the region due to intense heat and dry conditions. Naturally occurring fires are extremely rare, with the majority caused by humans, either accidental or intentionally set. Our strategy is to continue educating the local population, especially the youth, about the dangers of burning fallows, which is often

done to improve grazing for their animals. Fires tend to burn the grasses and shrubs, but move very quickly, and typically don't kill trees, as native species are generally grass-fire tolerant.

2.1.11 Benefit Permanence

KCRPI is a component of a comprehensive conservation effort being executed by Wildlife Works since 1998. Our intention is and has been to utilize carbon funding provided by the REDD+ Project to make necessary investments in job creation and income generation activities to maintain financial stability into the foreseeable future. We have demonstrated the effective management of carbon proceeds throughout the first 7 verification periods, achieving consecutive successful verifications, making it the most advanced REDD+ Project validated under VCS and CCB. The Project has executed carbon rights agreements in the Project area and received carbon proceeds through the sale of credits in the voluntary market as an operational REDD+ Project. As a result, landowners now realize the value of their carbon. It is our intention to get these CRAs registered as full easements against the title deed of the land, although there is no perfected mechanism under Kenyan law yet. Our approach to transfer knowledge and our assistance in creating conservation institutions within the community speak to our desire to ensure climate, community and biodiversity benefits and SDG Impacts continue in perpetuity.

It is Wildlife Works' intention to create a lasting culture of employment and financial health in the Project's sphere of influence. To that end, every job created thus far, and every job slated for creation in the future upon receipt of carbon funding, is designed to last not only throughout the Project's crediting period, but well beyond. Through job training, such as in our EcoFactory, members of the surrounding communities are currently building their capacity and gaining new skills that will last into the foreseeable future. Carbon revenues have and will continue to change the face of the surrounding communities, and through KCRPI, Wildlife Works has effectively raised awareness about the link between forest / wildlife protection and the availability of sustainable employment. We have made detailed job creation information available to the public and included many of the metrics in the various versions of this document. For every Project activity, as one of the performance indicators, we will be tracking the number of jobs created as a direct result of that activity. Employment information is reported in each MR throughout the Project lifetime. The types of job created by KCRPI activities, whenever possible, are full-time, permanent positions, designed to last well beyond the project crediting period.

2.2 Stakeholder Engagement

2.2.1 Stakeholder Identification

Prior to the Project Start Date, Wildlife Works had over ten years of close working relationships with the communities in the Project Zone. Before we began our project in 1998 we sought the

permission of the local community and local authorities and even though we were a private business operating our conservation project on private land. Every effort has been made to be a trusted partner within the community.

Wildlife Works conducted a Full Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) campaign with stakeholders (ranch owners and community members) during the Project's development phase (please see the CCB PDD Section 5.3). The process of Community and Stakeholder identification was conducted through a series of key informant/expert interviews, workshop discussions, an analysis of rights and a literature review. Through these methods it was possible to obtain a well-informed and comprehensive understanding of all communities and community groups in the Project Zone. Consultations with each group were integral to the Project design, in particular during the SIA workshops.

The SIA training and workshop utilized theory of change logic to hypothesize how the KCRPI intends to achieve its objectives. In other words, through the SIA training and workshop participants created a roadmap of how the KCRPI plans to get from Point A (project activities) to Point Z (project impacts). First the participants created a Project Vision Statement. Secondly, they identified and prioritized the Project's focal issues, from which they created a problem statement and vision statement for each focal issue. With these problem and vision statements they created a problem flow and results chain diagram for each focal issue. Next the participants conducted a risk analysis and negative impact assessment for each focal issue, and finally a theory of change statement. Once these items were created for each issue, a list of mitigating activities and indicators were created for the life of the Project. This process, described above, demonstrates how key community members and project stakeholders were involved in every step of the Project's design process. This stakeholder identification process was held during the initial development of the project for the VCS and CCB standard, and has been held on a regular basis since. No new stakeholder groups have been identified since the initial workshops or during the development of the SD VISta documentation. As part of continuous engagement and consultation, the Project Proponent continually holds meetings with Project stakeholders and the surrounding communities to update them on the Project and receive any new comments, requests, suggestions or grievances.

2.2.2 Stakeholder Description

The Duruma and the Taita communities were the stakeholders that were identified through a participatory process as documented in the KCRPII's CCB PD Section G3.8, which is located on the Verra Registry (https://registry.verra.org/app/projectDetail/VCS/562). However, these stakeholder descriptions have evolved throughout the CCB process. For the purposes of the SD VISta standard these stakeholder sub-groups were placed into more general stakeholder categories, as seen in Table 5. The project activities are available equally to all of the stakeholders within each stakeholder category, and each sub-group will experience the project benefits and impacts in a very similar manner. As such, the more general stakeholder category will be used to document project impacts on stakeholders in section 3.2.

Table 3: The Stakeholders in the Kasigau Corridor REDD Project Phase I – Rukinga Sanctuary

Stakeholder group	Current impact/ activities in landscape	Effect of project on their activities
Local Communities	Illegal, unsustainable use of forest land and wildlife, including charcoal production, agriculture and poaching	No expansion of agricultural land into the Project Area; and enforcement of laws stopping use of forest resources and wildlife poaching.
Elected, cultural or religious leaders	Current community leadership and authorities	Cooperation with this group to ensure protection and sustainable use of forest and wildlife protection. Additionally, to increase incomes.
Government Institutions	Primary law enforcement of laws and regulations protecting forests and wildlife	The Project will work in collaboration with government institutions to enforce laws and regulations.
Community-based organisations	Work on local level and often with limited resources and unpredictable funding.	The Project will work in collaboration with many community-based organizations and provide funding and resources.
Schools	There are over 800 primary and secondary schools in the project communities. The schools are often underfunded and school fees or other costs are often prohibitive for community members.	The project will provide desks and other furniture for schools and help renovate facilities. Bursaries will be provided to pay school fees and help with other costs associated with attending school.
Local NGOs and Civil Society	Existing local organizations undertaking development projects	The project will partner with these organizations to coordinate and assist, and collaborate on some projects.

2.2.3 Stakeholder Consultation

The primary method of communication and consultation with Project stakeholders and communities is through our Community Engagement and Outreach Department. They hold regular meetings with the communities and other stakeholders including schools to both disseminate Project information, and to receive and address comments, suggestions and grievances. Together with a selected committee, they are in-charge of opening Suggestion Boxes that are distributed across the Project Zone including at Chief's Offices for willing community members to drop written feedback including grievances (see Section 2.3.4). In addition, the Project office is open during regular business hours and maintains an open-door policy for community members and stakeholders to research Project information or to submit

comments. The hours for the Carbon office are 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. This is the same plan as described in the CCB PDD and has not been amended.

2.2.4 Continued Consultation and Adaptive Management

The primary method of communication and consultation with Project stakeholders and communities is through our Community Engagement and Outreach Department. They hold regular meetings with the communities and other stakeholders including schools to both disseminate Project information, and to receive and address comments, suggestions and grievances. Together with a selected committee, they are in-charge of opening Suggestion Boxes that are distributed across the Project Zone including at Chief's Offices for willing community members to drop written feedback including grievances. In addition, the Project office is open during regular business hours and maintains an open-door policy for community members and stakeholders to research Project information or to submit comments. The hours for the Carbon office are 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. This is the same plan as described in the CCB PDD and has not been amended.

No significant Project changes have resulted from these on-going consultations, but various changes and modifications have occurred, mainly concerning the processes of community engagement and project implementation e.g., election of member to various committees involved in the distribution of community allocations. Communities and stakeholders have provided numerous comments on how to ensure fairness, increase downward accountability and reduce the possibility of corruption in the benefit sharing program. This has led to WWC ensuring greater transparency, for instance in process followed for the election of committee members, or regarding the names of students being provided with bursaries and the names of companies receiving contracts and their amounts.

2.2.5 Anti-Discrimination

Wildlife Works operates within all local and national employment laws and has been doing so for over 16 years in the country of Kenya. The company is committed to recruiting, hiring, and promoting qualified minorities, such as women and individuals with disabilities within the surrounding community and within the workplace.

Wildlife Works maintains equal opportunity hiring practices and has established formal hiring processes and procedures that are implemented by the Project Office. These include policies and procedures for Employee Recruitment & Selection, Equity and Diversity, and Equal Employment Opportunity & Affirmative Action. We ensure that the entirety of the KCRPI Project Area is well represented, promoting equal opportunity for training for those that may lack necessary skills, but wish to be involved.

When employment opportunities arise, the positions are advertised / announced so it reaches all the locations within the Project area through local administrators (Chiefs), community-based organizations (CBOs) and our community relations department. Positions are advertised for a

minimum of one month (30 days), after which suitable candidates from all locations are shortlisted according to the information listed on their application. As many suitable candidates as possible are invited for interviews. We conduct transparent interviews with the objective of filling the position with optimal candidates, but priority is given to women and disadvantaged groups, ensuring they are well represented and given a fair chance, as described in Wildlife Works' HR Policies.

Wildlife Works' policy is to be an equal opportunity employer. We do not, as part of recruitment, discriminate based on gender, age, race and ethnicity or entertain any form of discrimination. The company is committed to ensuring that all employee requisitions, interviewing, and hiring are performed in an effective manner with the objective to fill positions with the best available candidates. The purpose of the Recruitment & Selection policy is to ensure that a transparent and unbiased recruitment and selection process is followed, and that it results in the appointment of the best candidate, based solely on merit and best-fit with the organisational values, philosophy, and goals in mind.

Wildlife Works' Equity & Diversity policy is to provide equal employment, educational and social opportunities for all employees, without regard to race, colour, religion, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, age, status, disability, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity or genetic information at any given time. Wildlife Works is committed to the principle of excellence, with respect for all.

Wildlife Works prohibits discrimination and any form of harassment, provides equal employment opportunity without regard to race, HIV / AIDS status, pregnancy, mental status, colour, religion, gender, trade affiliation, ethnicity or national origin, political or other opinion disability, sexual orientation or preferences of age. The company is committed to recruiting, hiring, and promoting qualified minorities, such as women and individuals with disabilities within the surrounding community and within the workplace.

2.2.6 Worker Training

Wildlife Works has always provided training for its employees in Kenya, starting from the early days when we built a factory and taught local women how to sew from first principles. We have trained local wildlife rangers, factory workers and supervisors, organic greenhouse workers, personnel managers, and forest inventory specialists (plot sampling teams). We have developed robust training programs for Wildlife Works rangers, factory workers and greenhouse workers.

The most recent specialized hires have been for the Biodiversity Monitoring Team, which involves geo-location of animal sightings, detailed inventory management and reporting and skilled field techniques. Each department works to cross-train employees, so that to the fullest extent possible, all members of a department can perform relevant tasks required by the department. Therefore, while there may be specialized tasks, tools used or processes utilized in a department, we strive for breadth of knowledge for all employees, with the aim of affording all

departmental employees with the capacity to perform all tasks required and cover any position needed. Additionally, we design our training systems to promote employee mobility within the company.

2.2.7 Equal Work Opportunities

Wildlife Works operates within all local and national employment laws and has been doing so for over 16 years in the country of Kenya. The company is committed to recruiting, hiring, and promoting qualified minorities, such as women and individuals with disabilities within the surrounding community and within the workplace.

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2.2.8 Workers' Rights

Wildlife Works operates within all local and national employment laws and has been doing so for over 16 years in the country of Kenya. Like any business, Wildlife Works is subject to periodic audits by the Government Employment Officer. We have passed all inspections, whether from local officials or International agencies such as Verite. Relevant Laws and Regulations that are applicable to the project are summarized in section 2.3.9 of this document.

Kenya's has ratified many of the elements of the ILO Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention, 1948 (No. 87). We are required to provide our workers with the freedom of association. We are required to honor a dispute process as laid out in the act. We currently have no collective bargaining agreement in place nor are we required to do so. We have never had a dispute with any employee that resulted in any collective action, lock out etc. and we have no disputes at all at this time, and we believe that we are in full compliance with this Act. To ensure that employees are aware of their rights under the Act, the following language is included in all employment contracts issued by Wildlife Works in Kenya.

"Wildlife Works, EPZ Ltd. acknowledges the importance of the recently enacted Labor Relations Act 2007, and therefore we wish to inform you that you are entitled to Freedom of Association, and specifically to join the Kenya Textile Workers Union (KTWU) should you so choose. Should you choose to join the KTWU, all membership dues and agency fees for the Union will be payable directly by you."

2.2.9 Occupational Safety Assessment

As outlined in the company's Occupational Health and Safety Policy and Procedures Manual, Wildlife Works is committed to worker safety. In the field of wildlife management, it is impossible to remove all risks associated for rangers who spend every day in the bush with wild animals. Furthermore, due to the illegal ivory trade, armed poachers are present in the Project Area Wildlife Works' rangers receive ongoing trainings, and we are in the process of training more instructors within the ranger base. WWC is also investigating technologies that could be employed to identify nearby wildlife and alert rangers to their presence; however, no such technology has been found to be viable and/or useful in identifying risks. Despite well-planned ranger patrols and the wealth of experience rangers have in the bush, the position is inherently dangerous. Therefore, we insure all our full-time employees under the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) and the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), which also covers spouse

and children. In addition, as a company policy, we provide each employee with up to Ksh 10,000 worth of medical allowance at the local doctor in the nearby town of Voi.

Table 4: An assessment of the hazards associated with the key jobs performed in KCRPI

Hazard	Mitigation
Sewing Factory Employees	All risks are identified in training manual provided to Validator along with how to avoid risk.
Needle sticking fingers	Finger guards are provided, sharps bin is provided for safe disposal of needles that are replaced
Inhalation of fibers	Face masks are provided
Fire	Fire exits clearly marked, no smoking in factory, firefighting stations in factory, three doors out of facility
Greenhouse Employees	All risks are identified in training manual provided to Validator along with how to avoid risk.
Exposure to Chemicals	Only non-toxic chemical free organic materials used in Greenhouse therefore no toxic or caustic chemical exposure. Rubber gloves and protective eye gear provided if needed.
Inhalation Hazard	Only non-toxic chemical free organic materials used in Greenhouse therefore no toxic or caustic chemical exposure. Masks provided during spraying of organic pesticides.
Temperature Extremes	Frequent breaks and availability of water during hot conditions. Shade cloth covering of work area.
Slip, Trip and Fall	Ensure work is clear of all slip or trip hazards before work begins.
Lifting	Use proper lifting techniques, always get help for lifting heavy objects.
Cuts	Wear gloves, keep tools sharp and always be aware of the proximity of fingers to blades when making cuts.
Electric Shock	There is no electricity at all at the Organic Greenhouse.
Pinching and Crushing Points	Wear gloves, keep tools sharp and always be aware of the proximity of fingers to blades when making cuts.
Inclement/Adverse Weather	Organic Greenhouse located adjacent to Ranger station, so employees can retreat indoors in adverse weather.
Snakes, Animals	Keep greenhouse floor clear of organic debris for clear visibility, always be aware of the possibility for snakes, spiders, scorpions to be present, and do not approach or touch if seen.
Wildlife Works Rangers	All risks are identified in Ranger training manual provided to Validator along with how to avoid risk.

Elephants, Lions, Buffaloes, Snakes etc.	Training is given in how to approach, identify and stay a safe distance from potentially dangerous animals. First Aid training is provided in cuts, limb fractures, snakebites, dehydration and other possible health risks. Team design of 6 minimizes risk.
Poachers	Training is given in how to track, and peacefully apprehend poachers if possible and how to avoid confrontation with armed and aggressive poachers. Team design of 6 minimizes risk.
Sun Exposure, thorns etc.	Rangers are all provided with uniforms with long sleeves and long trousers and brimmed hats and boots. Lots of drinking water available at Ranger posts.
Wildlife Works Plot Sampling Team	All risks are identified in Plot Sampler training manual provided to Validator along with how to avoid risk.
Elephants, Lions, Buffaloes, Snakes etc.	Training is given in how to approach, identify and stay a safe distance from potentially dangerous animals. First Aid training is provided in cuts, limb fractures, snakebites, dehydration and other possible health risks. Team is designed to have sufficient numbers to improve lookout and minimize risk.
Poarchers/Charcoalers	Team is instructed to avoid contact with any poachers or people producing charcoal. If the presence of any poacher or charcoaler is detected, the team is to immediately leave the area and notify the Head of Security when they are in a safe position.
Sun Exposure, thorns etc.	Each plot team member is all provided with uniforms with long sleeves and long trousers and boots. They are to bring lots of drinking water, which is available in the field at Ranger posts or other company and Ranch outposts.
Injuries from debris or tools during Soil Sampling	The plot team is also provided with personal protective equipment to help mitigate injuries. This includes safety glasses and long sleeves and trousers to protect against flying debris while digging. Additionally, they are provided with boots to protect their feet during digging.
WW/Tsavo Soap Factory	All risks are identified in Soap Factory Safety training manual provided to Validator along with how to avoid risk.
Lye	Comprehensive instructions are given on how to mix lye safely, and goggles and gloves are provided for employees.
Oils, Gas heating	Vegetable oils are only heated to 50-55o C, so are only hand warm. Gas stove is simple self-igniting LPG camp stove.

2.2.10 Feedback and Grievance Redress Procedure

The grievance redress mechanism enables individual stakeholders, groups or communities across KCRPI to contact us if they have an inquiry, a concern or a formal complaint regarding any element related to the environmental and social performance of the Project. It is mainstreamed into our broader stakeholder engagement process. The Community Engagement

and Outreach Manager is responsible for receiving, registering and processing all grievances. We have established procedures to help us screen, investigate and determine resolution and redress options, as well as systems to communicate decisions taken and progress on pending actions. This helps ensure the grievance mechanism remains accessible and trusted.

Stakeholders across KCRPI have five ways of registering their complaints or concerns, which they do either orally or through writing:

i. **Open-door company policy:** Wildlife Works maintains an open-door policy for all community members whereby they are free, if they would wish to, to walk in and personally register a complaint with the appropriate member of staff, including senior management. Wildlife Works retains its main operating base within the Project area to ensure accessibility of key members of staff and management to community members.

ii. **Through the Chief's Office:** the REDD+ Project area covers six administrative locations each headed by a Chief. Wildlife Works strives to engage these key leaders in all our operations involving the communities e.g., to organize community meetings during our SBIA workshops. They are also key arbiters in cases where Wildlife Works are unable to resolve an issue or complainant. Grievance forms are also available at Chief's offices, and Wildlife Works meets with the Chiefs periodically to collect completed forms. When forms are dropped into REDD+ Project's suggestion boxes outside Chief's Offices, we adhere to the chain of custody procedure described below.

iii. **Suggestion boxes:** Wildlife Works has installed suggestion boxes across the Project area at Chief's Offices. Chief's Offices are established such that they are accessible to most members in a Location. They are opened once a month by a team comprising a community representative, a Chief or Chief's representative, and a Wildlife Works staff member. All comments and complaints are registered, and the team agrees on how to respond to them depending on the issue and following the procedures and guidelines.

iv. **During community meetings:** as mentioned above, the Chief is involved in setting up various community meetings (termed "Barazas" in Swahili) and community members are free to air any complaints or feedback during these meetings. Wildlife Works maintains records and minutes for all meetings and follows up with the individual complainants in the case of specific grievances, or with the Chief's Office for general complaints.

v. **Online via the CCB/VCS websites:** this is especially during the Public Comments Period when Project audits – validation and/or verification – are conducted. Members of communities with access to the internet can register any complaints/feedback directly. Those without such access can use any of the procedures above to register complains or comments, especially through the CBO or Chief's Office using paper grievance forms.

2.2.11 Feedback and Grievance Redress Procedure Accessibility

Wildlife Works' Feedback and Grievance Redress procedure for the project is described in Section 2.2.10 above. Publicization and accessibility to the procedure is made available to all interested stakeholders through the Open-door Policy at the Wildlife Works office, through the grievance forms available Chief's offices at the six local administrative locations relevant to the

project, Suggestion Boxes located at Chief's offices where anonymous input can be provided, during community meetings where attending community members are free to air any complaints, and online via the internet can register any inputs directly, especially during the Verra/CCB Public Comment period associated with project verification.

2.2.12 Stakeholder Access to Project Documentation

Information on the Project is detailed in the VCS/CCB Project Descriptions, documents which are made publicly available on the Verra website. Further, Climate, Community, Biodiversity, and SDG Impact monitoring results are described in the project's VCS/CCB & SD VISta Monitoring Reports submitted for project verification which are also made publicly available. Hard copies of these documents are all available for review at the Project Office. Additionally, monitoring report summaries are also written for each monitoring period and provided to communities throughout the Project Area in English and Swahili. The monitoring report has additionally been posted to the CCB website for public review and comment.

In addition, the following steps were taken to ensure all stakeholders have access to the project's Monitoring Reports and are aware of and provided a means to comment on the document during the public comment period:

- An executive summary of the monitoring report was made available in English and Swahili at the Project office and distributed to the CBOs, LCCs and Project communities.
- WWC community relations staff actively communicated to community members the start of the Public comment period at recent community outreach meetings and encouraged them to file comments. Community relations officers will also make note of any verbal comments and ensure their registration.
- A computer was made publicly available at the Project office for submitting comments directly to the CCB website. All Public comments received in writing are provided to the VVB.

The results from monitoring plan implementation are disseminated to the communities either through community meetings or barazas or the annual / biennial SIA Community Workshops.
Information to Stakeholders on Assessment Process

Local community members are informed about the VCS/CCB verification process, and SD VISta assessment process by the Community Engagement and Outreach Manager during periodic community meetings, and through publicly available information available online via the Verra website. This includes the Verra/CCB Public Comments Period when Project audits – validation and/or verification – are conducted. Members of communities with access to the internet can register any complaints/feedback directly. Those without such access can use any of the procedures above to register complains or comments, especially through the CBO or Chief's Office using paper grievance forms.

2.2.13 Information to Stakeholders on Assessment Process

Project community members and stakeholders are informed about the VCS/CCB verification process, and SD VISta assessment process by the Community Engagement and Outreach Manager during periodic community meetings, notices posted in prominent locations and through publicly available information available online via the Verra website. The project's Community Engagement and Outreach Manager and their team hold regular community meetings to communicate project information and educate community members and stakeholders on REDD+ in general and the SD Vista, CCB and VCS standards. While the Project is newly implementing the SD VISta standard, it was validated under the VCS and CCB standards over 12 years ago and is currently on the 8th verification under these standards. Therefore, the communities and stakeholders have become accustomed to the verification process and the opportunities it has for public comment and meeting with the audit team. The Community Engagement and Outreach Manager strives to inform communities and stakeholders of the project public comment period and audit site visits 1-2 weeks before they occur to ensure adequate notice is provided. The project additionally posts notices written in Kiswahili, the prominent local language, in prominent locations, such as sign boards outside of chief's huts, that state the dates of the public comment period, the dates of the audit field visit and contact information for project and the auditor. The sign states that anyone wishing to learn more about the project and its impacts can contact the project at the provided contact information, or if they wish to speak directly to the audit team they can schedule a meeting through project staff or directly with the auditor through the contact information provided. These notices are posted at least 2 weeks before the audit site visit. The project information is also posted publicly on the Verra website during the public comment period. Members of communities with access to the internet can register any complaints/feedback directly, or can utilize project computers to do so. Those without such access can use any of the procedures above to register complaints or comments, especially through the CBO or Chief's Office using paper grievance forms. The audit team addresses any comments received by Verra, or grievances and comments received by the project or communicated directly to the auditor.

2.3 Project Management

2.3.1 Avoidance of Corruption

Section C-8 of the Wildlife Works Employee Manual (January 2020) outlines the company's corporate anti-corruption and compliance policies. The policy statement stipulates that no Wildlife Works employees or any of its related entities will ever pay or authorize the payment of money or anything of value to any other party or individual for the benefit of that party or individual to retain business or be securing an improper advantage. Further, Wildlife Works' personnel will abide by the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977 (the "FCPA") or any other applicable Law of similar effect, including Laws implementing the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions. Wildlife Works' employees agree to abide by the policies in the Employee Manual when executing their employment contract.

In addition, the Wildlife Works Kenya office has an established Code of Conduct policy, Version 1.0, June 2019, that outlines the standard of behavior expected of employees of the company. The policy is designed to assist staff to understand their responsibilities and obligations and provide guidance on expected behavior in the workplace. The Code of Conduct policy applies to all Wildlife Works employees and management. Part II, 18 – Financial Integrity of the policy addresses anti-corruption.

By signing off on the Code of Conduct policy, all Wildlife Works employees agree to non-corrupt behavior, including, not using their position to unlawfully or wrongfully enrich themselves or any other person, to not seek or accept cash or benefit that may compromise their integrity, be accountable for the efficient and effective use of funds, and maintain proper documentation and records of financial transactions. In addition, Part II, 20 – Gifts and Benefits in Kind of the Policy prohibits all Wildlife Works employees of accepting any type of gift specified by the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission. Gifts of money may not be accepted in any circumstances, and all gifts or donations must be declared to the company.

2.3.2 Statutory and Customary Rights

The Project Area boundary is the boundary of that piece of land known as LR 12263 or Rukinga Sanctuary. The project area lands are privately owned under leasehold ownership from the Government of Kenya by Rukinga Ranching Co. Ltd. Wildlife Works has a legally binding agreement with the landowners, Rukinga Ranching Co Ltd. which transfers the carbon and biodiversity rights of the Project Area to Wildlife Works, Inc.

Currently and historically, there have not been any communities within the boundaries of the protected area.

2.3.3 Recognition of Property Rights

The Project Area boundary is the boundary of that piece of land known as LR 12263 or Rukinga Sanctuary. The project area lands are privately owned under leasehold ownership from the Government of Kenya by Rukinga Ranching Co. Ltd. Wildlife Works has a legally binding agreement with the landowners, Rukinga Ranching Co Ltd. which transfers the carbon and biodiversity rights of the Project Area to Wildlife Works, Inc.

Currently and historically, there have not been any communities within the boundaries of the protected area. Therefore, the Project does not currently, and never has, required the relocation of any people. The Project will never re-locate any people that could encroach on the Project Area lands, although we work to actively prevent encroachment.

2.3.4 Free, Prior and Informed Consent

Wildlife Works conducted a Full Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) campaign with stakeholders (ranch owners and community members) during the Project's development phase (please see the CCB PDD Section 5.3). Additionally, as part of continuous engagement and consultation, the Project Proponent continually holds meetings with Project stakeholders and

the surrounding communities to update them on the Project and receive any new comments, requests, suggestions or grievances. See also the description of ongoing stakeholder consultation activities described in Section 2.2.3 of this document.

2.3.5 Restitution and/or Compensation for Affected Resources

Generally, the project stakeholders and other community members will have net positive outcomes as a result of the Project. Two main community groups are predicted to suffer potential costs from implementation of project activities. The KCRPI will mitigate for these negative impacts as follows:

- Poachers and those illegally cutting wood or producing charcoal: although these are illegal activities for the large part, those genuinely undertaking them for basic livelihood support will be offered or considered for direct employment when job opportunities arise e.g., as rangers. Nonetheless, they will also enjoy the other general community benefits like access to community educational grants schemes, improved health access and agricultural training to help move them away from illegal activities.
- Slash and burn agriculture: The Project activities, such as access to community educational grants schemes, improved health access and agricultural training are designed to reduce the need to clear new agricultural land. This is because they help reduce the financial pressures that result in the need to increase agricultural area and to increase yields on existing agricultural lands, also reducing the need to add new agricultural areas to increase production.

2.3.6 Property Rights Removal/Relocation of Property Rights Holders

The Project does not require involuntary removal or relocation of communities or any activities important for their livelihood and culture.

2.3.7 Identification of Illegal Activities

The illegal activities that may be conducted in the Project Area include poaching of animals, both for animal products, such as elephants for their tusks, or for bush meat. Additionally, hardwood trees may be cut down for charcoal production or for building poles. Land could also be cleared for small-scale farms by members of the surrounding communities.

No project benefits are derived from illegal activity. Wildlife Works has established a long and successful track record of monitoring the Project Area for any illegal activities and halting them. As described in other sections of this report, our rangers have caught many poachers and charcoal burners before they were able to do significant damage to the ecosystem and have established a close working relationship with Kenyan government authorities. Wildlife Works always uses non-violent practices when dealing with perpetrators of illegal activities in the Project Area. In fact, the majority of charcoal producers that were arrested for illegal activity are now employed with Wildlife Works in jobs that benefit the environment. Neither the Project, nor

members of the community related to the Project, benefit in any way from these illegal activities.

2.3.8 Ongoing Conflicts or Disputes

There are no existing known or ongoing unresolved disputes over ownership and rights to the project area lands, emission reduction claims, or SDG Impacts generated by the project.

The Project Area boundary is the boundary of that piece of land known as LR 12263 or Rukinga Sanctuary. The project area lands are privately owned under leasehold ownership from the Government of Kenya by Rukinga Ranching Co. Ltd. Wildlife Works has a legally binding agreement with the landowners, Rukinga Ranching Co Ltd. which transfers the carbon and biodiversity rights of the Project Area to Wildlife Works, Inc.

Any potential disputes brought to the attention of Wildlife Works would be handled through the Grievance and Redress procedures described in section 2.2.10

2.3.9 National and Local Laws and Regulations

Wildlife Works operates within all local and national employment laws and has been doing so for over 16 years in the country of Kenya. Like any business, Wildlife Works is subject to periodic audits by the Government Employment Officer. We have passed all inspections, whether from local officials or International agencies such as Verite.

Laws relevant to this Project are as follows:

EMPLOYMENT LAWS

Export Processing Zone's Act (Cap. 547)

As an Export Processing Zone (EPZ) company, we are exempted from the standard Labor Laws of Kenya. Instead, we must conform to those laws that that have been deemed applicable to General Provisions of the Employment Act (Cap 226-229) or amended for EPZs as covered by the Export Processing Zone's Act (Cap. 547).

National Health Insurance Fund

N.H.I.F was established on 12th July 1966 by an Act of Parliament (Cap 255) of the Laws of Kenya, and later became a state corporation on the 15th February 1999 through an Act of Parliament no.9 of 1998. The objective of its establishment is to enable majority of Kenyans to access healthcare services at supplemented costs. Contribution to the fund are compulsory for all persons whose income is Ksh.1000/= and above. To ensure our full compliance with this regulation a Wildlife Works representative visits the NHIF offices in Voi monthly. Our monthly payroll is submitted and the NHIF staff calculates our monthly contribution, which is then paid in full. Additionally, we are subject to random checks by the NHIF inspector, who makes unannounced visits to our facility to inspect our books. We have always been found to be in full compliance of this act.

The National Social Security Fund Act (Cap 258)

The National Social Security Fund Act of 1965 created this fund for the benefit of the members. It is a compulsory savings scheme into which the employer pays a statutory contribution for every employee who is a member. We physically go to the NSSF offices in Voi monthly to submit our monthly payroll on a NSSF form, and we pay the monthly dues. We are subject to strict audit checks by the NSSF inspector who visits our facility every two months and on passing the audit provides us with an official letter indicating we are in compliance. We have always been found to be in full compliance of this act.

Pay As you Earn (P.A.Y.E)

Section 37 of the Income Tax Act.

The "Pay as You Earn" method of deducting income tax from salaries and wages applies to weekly wages, monthly salaries, annual salaries, bonuses, commissions and directors' fees (whether the director is resident or non-resident). We are required to go to the Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) on a monthly basis to pay the withheld tax from our employees' wages and salaries. The bank takes one folio from our KRA receipt book, and stamps the other two folios, one of which we then take to the KRA office in Voi and provide it to them.

The Factories and Other Places of Work Act (Cap 514)

The Factories Act deals with the health, safety and welfare of an employee who works in a factory or other place of work. This Government department has never audited our facilities, as it is very small and covers the entire country. However, we have good reason to believe we are in full compliance with this act as a result of a third-party audit of our factory and operations performed by the independent NGO Verite, from the USA.

FairTrade

As of 2012, the 3 Wildlife Works EcoFactories are now certified Fairtrade USA.

The Work Injury Benefits Act (Cap. 236)

This Act ensures that companies have systems in place to provide any employees who are injured on duty with adequate compensation from the employer. We are required to maintain private insurance to cover our responsibility under this act.

Regulation of Wages and Conditions of Employment Act (Cap. 229)

This act sets the conditions of work and the minimum wage guidelines. The EPZ Act supersedes this act with regard to minimum wage and in fact the EPZ minimum wage guidelines are slightly higher than the National Employment Act guidelines.

Labor Relations Act, 2007 (Acts No. 14)

This is the new version of the old Trade Unions Act and the Trade Disputes Act, revised to harmonize the old Trade Acts with Kenya's recent ratification of many of the elements of the ILO Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention, 1948 (No. 87). We are required to provide our workers with the freedom of association. We are required to honor a dispute process as laid out in the act. We currently have no collective bargaining agreement in place nor are we required to do so. We have never had a dispute with any employee that resulted in any collective action, lock out etc. and we have no disputes at all at this time, and we believe that we are in full compliance with this Act. To ensure that employees are aware of their rights under the Act, the following language is included in all employment contracts issued by Wildlife Works in Kenya.

"Wildlife Works, EPZ Ltd. acknowledges the importance of the recently enacted Labor Relations Act 2007, and therefore we wish to inform you that you are entitled to Freedom of Association, and specifically to join the Kenya Textile Workers Union (KTWU) should you so choose. Should you choose to join the KTWU, all membership dues and agency fees for the Union will be payable directly by you."

2.3.10 Project Ownership

The Project Area boundary is the boundary of that piece of land known as LR 12263 or Rukinga Sanctuary. This lands is privately owned under leasehold ownership from the Government of Kenya by Rukinga Ranching Co. Ltd, with the majority shareholder of Rukinga Ranching Co Ltd being BenBo International, an offshore trust established by one of Wildlife Works principal investors. The Project has executed carbon rights agreements in the Project area and received carbon proceeds through the sale of credits in the voluntary market as an operational REDD+ Project.

Wildlife Works has a legally binding agreement with the landowners, Rukinga Ranching Co Ltd. which transfers the carbon and biodiversity rights of the Project Area to Wildlife Works, Inc. The agreement also sets out the obligations and responsibilities placed on the landowners for the duration of the project. As the majority shareholder of Rukinga Ranching Co. Ltd is also a major investor in Wildlife Works, it is unlikely that this easement will be challenged.

Currently and historically, there have not been any communities within the boundaries of the protected area. Therefore, the Project does not currently, and never has, required the relocation of any people. The Project will never re-locate any people that could encroach on the Project Area lands, although we work to actively prevent encroachment.

2.3.11 Grouped Projects

The KCRPI Project is not a grouped project.

3 BENEFITS FOR PEOPLE AND PROSPERITY

3.1 Condition of Stakeholders at Project Start

The vast majority of stakeholders within the project area are from the Taita tribe. Traditional Taita peoples have lived in this district since historic times, although some were moved out of the project area in the early 20th century as a result of activities that took place in the First World War, and who began to return to the project area mid-20th century. The population throughout the 20th century was mostly restricted to the higher elevations of the Eastern Arc Mountains and the slopes of Mt Kasigau, where higher rainfall and cooler climates made agriculture easier. Towards the late 1980s and early 1990s the Taita population on the main Taita Hills at the center of the District became too large to support the traditional practice of subdividing land and passing on plots to the next generation, and so Taita families began to descend to the lower elevations where the climate was much hotter and drier. In the 1980s a German Government Agricultural scheme acquired 5000 acres of what was then Rukinga Ranch and began a Jojoba growing scheme that brought lots of people to the area, but subsequently failed after completely clearing approximately 4000 acres of Dryland Forest. This land is no longer part of the project area, as it was legally excised from Rukinga and is now owned by a Nairobi businessman, but it is in the project area, and is now being restored by Wildlife Works as wildlife habitat, although it falls outside the scope of this Carbon project, due to low canopy cover.

The Mombasa highway was in such a shocking state of disrepair during the 1990s that trucks were forced to make many stops on the road from Voi to Mombasa, for repairs, and as a result roadside villages in the lower elevations began to prosper. Maungu, which is one of the main villages in the project area began to grow in the mid to late 1990s, with prostitution and bars to serve the trucking community. As a result Maungu has one of the highest HIV rates in the world as reported by the WHO. As the population grew rapidly in the 1990s, colonization took place from Maungu South along the unpaved public road towards Mt. Kasigau that runs through the Centre of the project area. The Taita are subsistence agriculturalists, so they cleared the dryland forest and planted maize, with little success. However 1998 was an El Nino year with abundant rainfall, and that further accelerated deforestation and immigration.

The only other formal employer in the project area is the Taveta Sisal Estates on the Western edge of the project area, which employs hundreds of low wage farm laborers. Other than that there are no formal employers other than Wildlife Works in the project area, other than service business, small shops, bars etc. and there were very few schools and no medical clinics when the Kasigau Corridor Project began.

The other community within the project area is largely made up of Duruma peoples, from the Coast of Kenya. The Duruma are one of the poorest tribes in Kenya, a circumstance that some attribute to an unhappy accident that their tribal lands fall right on the National boundary between Kenya and Tanzania that was drawn on a paper map by Queen Victoria in the late 19th century, but never clearly marked on the ground, which has led to the Duruma being ignored by both Kenya and Tanzania over the years. Local lore has it that they first came to the project area in the early 1990s when they were promised land by a local Taita politician who had taken a Duruma wife in return for their votes in local elections. The only problem was he promised them land he did not own that is within the project area. The Duruma are polygamists, and therefore the common practice was for a husband to bring his second or third wives to the project area to establish agricultural plots. The husband would leave them in the bush with their small children and return to the Coast where they would spend most of the time with the family of the first wife. The husband would then return at harvest and claim a large portion of the crop should there actually have been a crop, and would take it back to the Coast family. These single parent families were rarely successful at agriculture, but continued to clear land aggressively hoping they would find the perfect location where the tragically localized rainfall patterns would find their land. In the interim the teenage males would snare for food, the Duruma being much more comfortable in the bush than the Taita farmers.

As discussed in section 2.2.2, for the purposes of the SD VISta standard these two stakeholder groups were placed into stakeholder categories based on their role in the community, as seen in Table 5. KCRPI Current Stakeholder Groups The people that comprise these stakeholder categories are all members the more general two stakeholder groups discussed above. The proportion of Taita or Duruma in each of the stakeholder categories is primarily based on their overall populations in the surrounding communities, since they both live intermixed and have equal opportunities within the communities. As such, members of the Taita and Duruma can fall into any of the five stakeholder categories described below. Thus, the conditions discussed above all broadly apply to the stakeholder categories identified here for the SD VISta standard. Table 5 provides some specific information on the condition of each of the stakeholder categories at project start.

Table 5. KCRPI Current Stakeholder Groups

Stakeholder Group	Condition at Project Start
Local Communities	Food insecurity, low income, and lack of education
Elected, cultural or religious leaders	Corruption and unequal leadership opportunities

	Government Institutions	Corruption, nepotism and clannism, drug and substances abuse, and poor application of the law
	Community-based organizations	Poorly funded
	Schools	There was a negative attitude towards education, poor infrastructure, poor educational policies, and lack of school fees.
	Local NGOs and Civil Society	No NGO funding present

The project area was never inhabited historically, as there are no permanent water sources and it is remote from the hills that formed the traditional location of the Taita populations. The project area was gazetted in the 1970s as several Private Group Ranches for grazing land for certain members of the Taita communities then resident over 30 kms away on the Taita Hills. However they never had significant herds of cattle and therefore although they formed legal entities such as the Taita Ranching Co. Ltd. to hold title in the land granted by the post-independence Government, the local population never made use of the project area. Over the years some local shareholders in each of the ranches sold their shares to outsiders, so the ownership is quite varied between the 13 ranches.

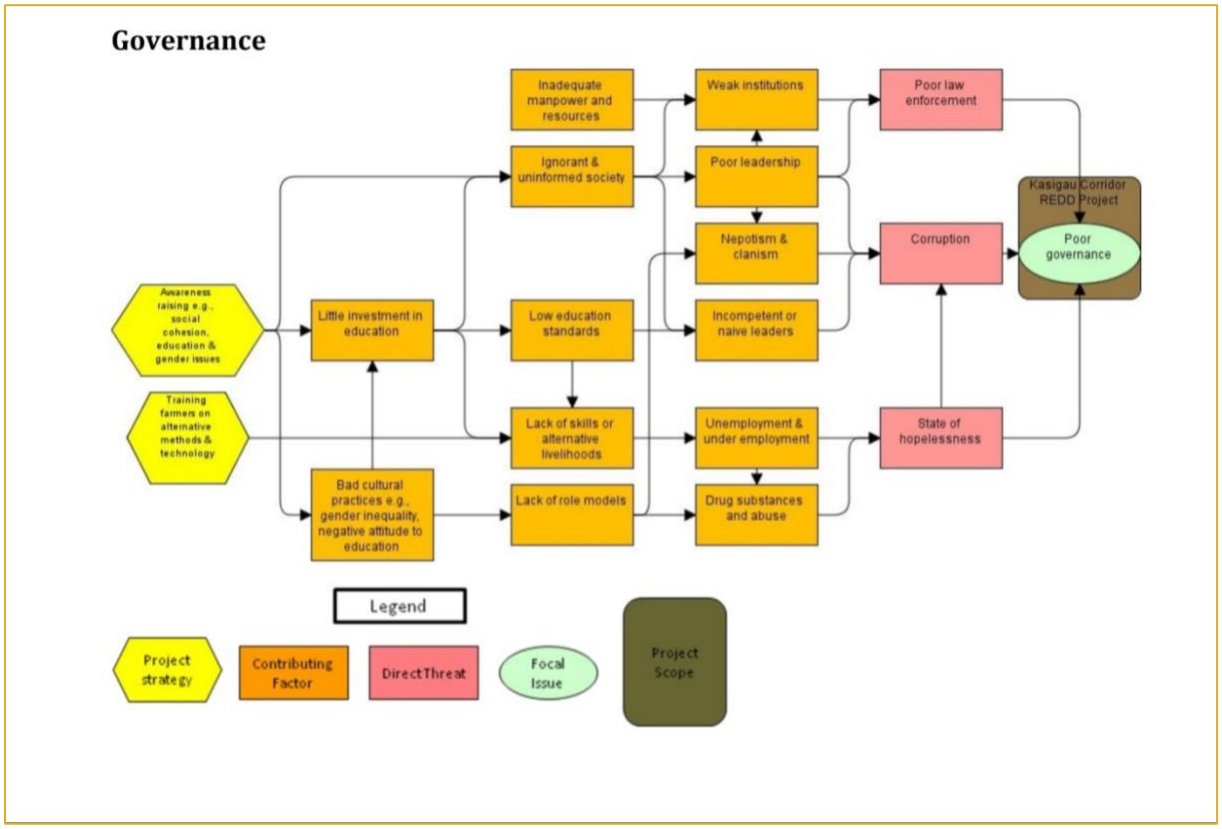
Wildlife Works has been involved in the project area since 1998, when they began construction of the eco-factory that sits on private land adjacent to the project area. In January 2000 Wildlife Works' Founder, Mike Korchinsky was forced to purchase the majority of the shares in Rukinga Ranching Company Ltd. from the then colonial owners, in order to protect the investment made in the EcoFactory conservation project, because the land was to be sold to a Somali cattle slaughterhouse operator from Mombasa who was going to use the land for fattening and slaughtering cattle for export to the Saudi Arabian Peninsula. Wildlife Works then took over financial responsibility for Rukinga Ranch forest monitoring and protection in January 2005. Rukinga has been protected by Wildlife Works as a forest habitat since this time but on a loss-making basis. When the Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS) implemented their program for making REDD projects eligible to generate VCUs in November 2008, WW sought financing to initiate a REDD project for the Kasigau Corridor Phase I Project. After finding the necessary

financing through a joint venture called Wildlife Works Carbon LLC, this project was launched. All documentation relating to this sequence of events was made available to the Validator during Phase I and Phase I was successfully validated subsequently.

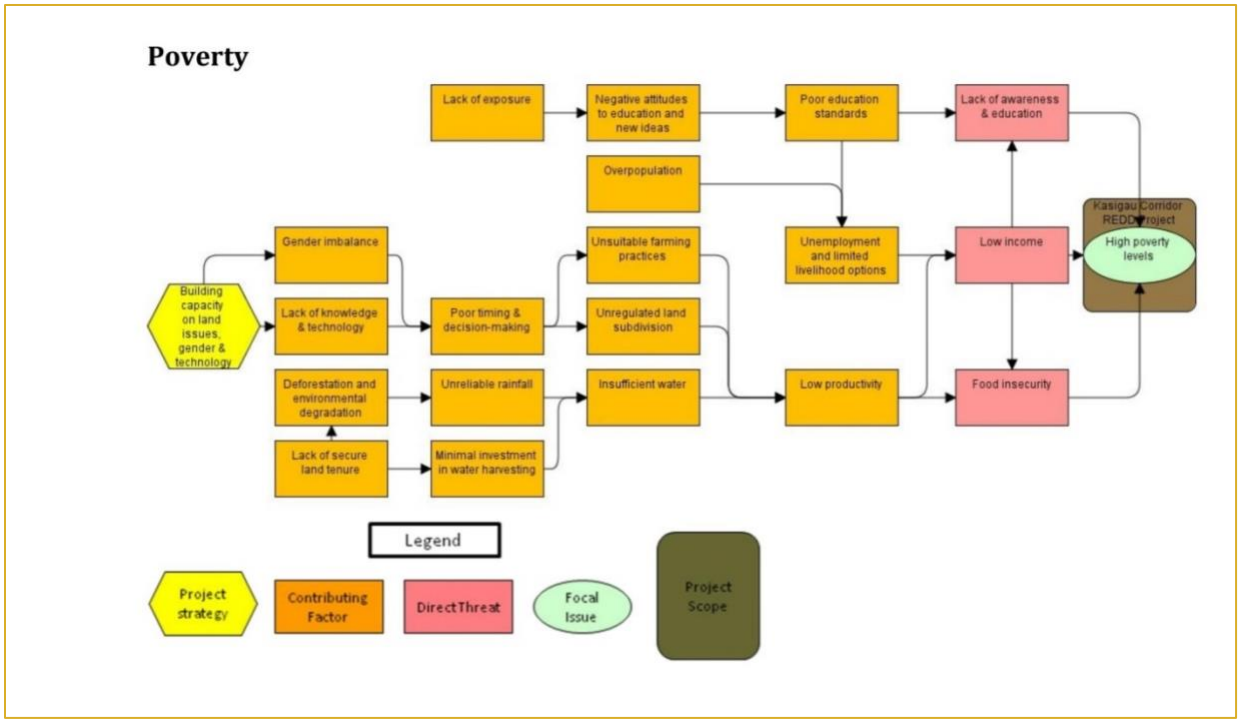
Phase II is now using the funds and expertise that have been learned with the Phase I - Rukinga Project to expand the REDD project to 13 other Community Owned Group Ranches, plus one community area in the Kasigau Corridor. All these group ranches have never been financially viable and are therefore prime candidates for avoided deforestation conservation projects. Through carbon financing and Wildlife Works management these areas will very soon become vital parts of the overall Project objectives.

During the SBIA community workshop, after the working groups had identified and prioritized the Focal Issues, they then analyzed them further to establish the causal logic leading to the problems and produced a Problem Flow Diagram (also termed Conceptual Model) for each of the Focal Issues. A Problem Flow Diagram (PFD) is a situation analysis of the issue that represents stakeholders' understanding of what drives the existence of the focal issue; it identifies economic, political, institutional, social and/or cultural factors that contribute to existence of the issue (Figure 5). These casual chains were originally developed under the CCB v.2 standard and have since evolved with the Project. As such, the causal chains are focused on the topics and activities dictated by the CCB Standard, which predate the SDGs discussed in this PD. We have included discussion with the causal chains where needed to describe how some impacts or activities from the SD VISta project are included on these causal chains if they were not explicitly listed within the causal chain itself.

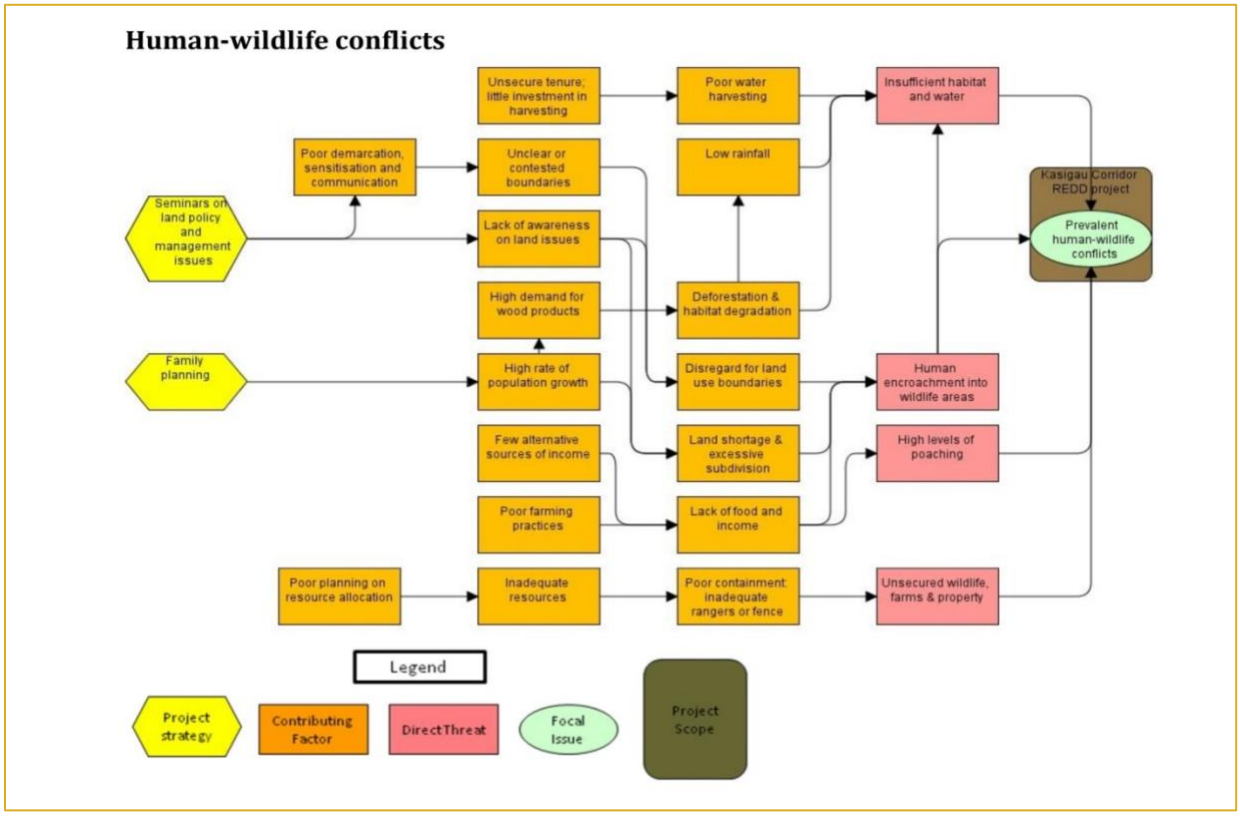
a)



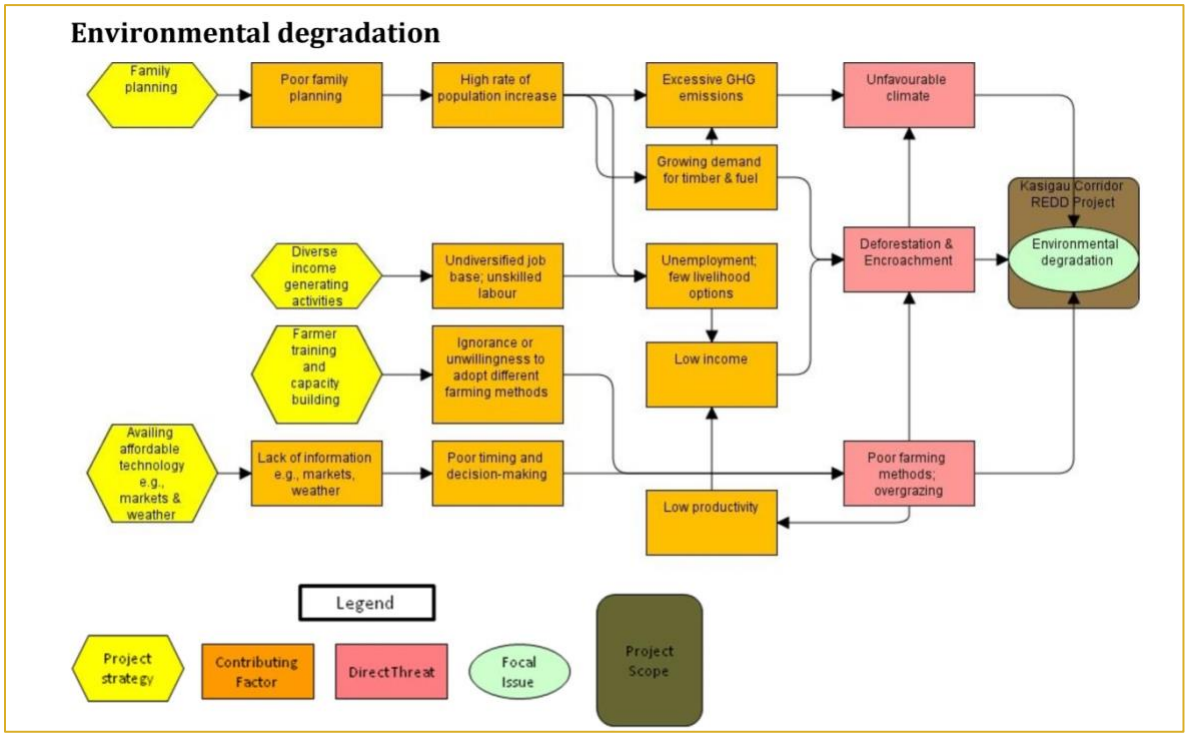
b) Although employment and increased income from Impact 1 are not listed as a project strategy in this causal chain, increasing employment and income has always been a project activity since the project start and was shown to be contributing factor to the focal issue "unemployment and limited livelihood options" in this chain. Impact 11 "access to quality essential health-care services and safe, effective, quality and affordable essential treatment" is not include as a project strategy, but has been a key poverty alleviation strategy since the beginning of the project. Medical expenses are a major expense for project stakeholders, and untreated injuries or chronic illnesses reduce people's ability to earn income and provide food for their families..


Poverty
Lack of exposure
Negative attitudes to education and new ideas
Poor education standards
Lack of awareness & education
Overpopulation
Kasigau Corridor REDD Project
High poverty levels
Gender imbalance
Unsuitable farming practices
Unemployment and limited livelihood options
Low income
Building capacity on land issues, gender & technology
Lack of knowledge & technology
Poor timing & decision-making
Unregulated land subdivision
Deforestation and environmental degradation
Unreliable rainfall
Insufficient water
Low productivity
Food insecurity
Lack of secure land tenure
Minimal investment in water harvesting
Legend
Project strategy
Contributing Factor
Direct Threat
Focal Issue
Project Scope

c) Although safeguarding threatened species from Impact 20 in the Project Area is not explicitly listed as a project strategy, protecting biodiversity has always been a project activity and is represented here by these project strategies aiming to reduce human-wildlife conflict and therefore protect wildlife from the main threats that they face.



d) While protecting the Project Area under conservation management is not a listed as a project strategy, it has always been a project activity. Impacts 19 and 20 are generally included in this causal chain, by the fact that these project strategies were all identified to contribute to. the focal point of reducing “Environmental degradation” in the project area, which means protecting the forest of the PA from deforestation and preserving the habitat of the wildlife and biodiversity present. Although employment and increased income from Impact 1 is not listed as a project strategy in this causal chain, increasing employment and income has always been a project activity since the project start and is included it the below project strategy of “Diverse income generating activities”.



e) While increased access to education, employment and training opportunities from Impact 11 is not listed as a project strategy here directly, it was a stated goal of the project from the SBIA workshops, and is generally covered by the below strategy of "Capacity Building" and addressing the "low income" and "Inability to pay school fees" contributing factors.

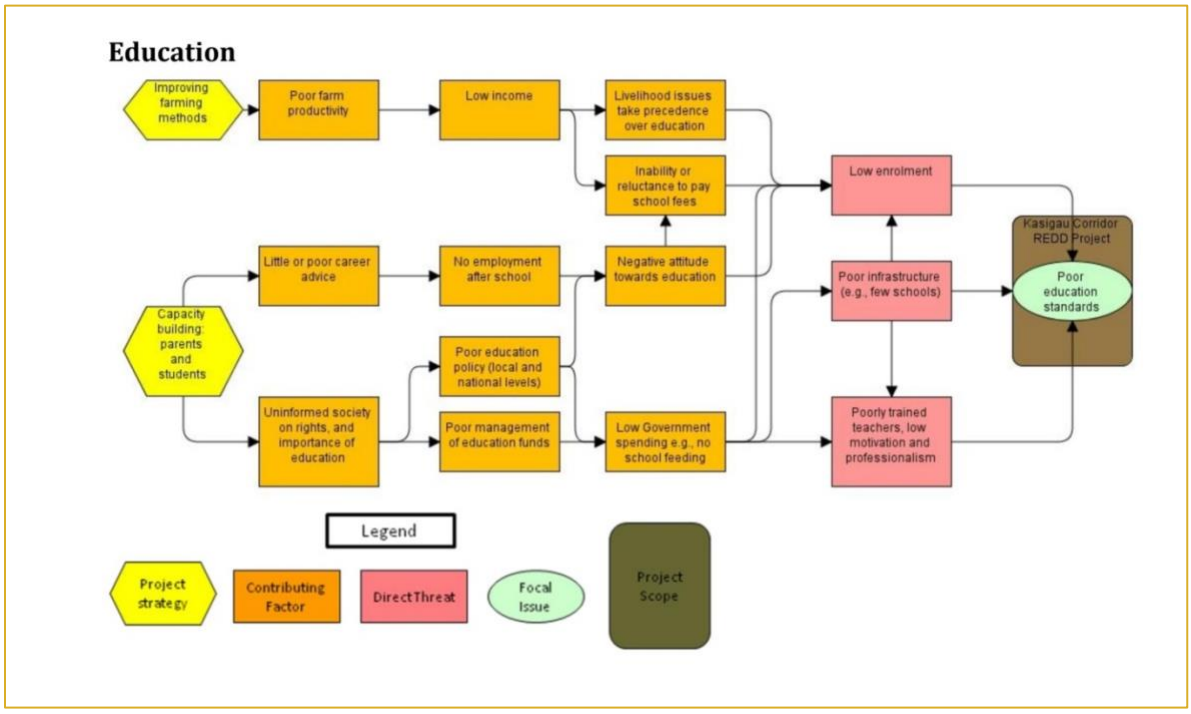


Figure 5: Problem Flow diagrams for the identified focal issues for KCRPI.

3.2 Expected Impacts on Stakeholders

Impact #1	The Project Zone Communities will have increased employment and managerial opportunities. This applies to females within the community as well. (SDG 1.1)
Type of Impact	This is a positive impact, that is actual and direct.
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	Local communities-Present and future
Resulting Change in Well-being	Increased employment opportunities

Impact #2	Expected households earnings within the Project Zone is expected to increase. (SDG 1.1)
Type of Impact	This is a positive impact, that is actual and direct.
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	Local communities-Present and future
Resulting Change in Well-being	Increased household income

Impact #3	Project Zone communities will see an increase in proportion of households with on-farm production for home use and/or sale. (SDG 2.3)
Type of Impact	This is a positive impact, that is actual and direct.
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	Local communities-Present and future
Resulting Change in Well-being	Increased household income and food security

Impact #4	Project Zone communities will have access to quality health-care facilities within reasonable distances from their communities, reducing cost of transport and of access for healthcare. (SDG 3.8)
Type of Impact	This is a positive impact, that is actual and direct.
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	Local communities-Present and future
Resulting Change in Well-being	Improved access to quality healthcare services

Impact #5	Project Zone communities will have access to quality essential health-care services and safe, effective, quality and affordable essential treatment for all. (SDG 3.8)

Type of Impact	This is a positive impact, that is actual and direct.
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	Local communities-Present and future
Resulting Change in Well-being	Improved access to quality healthcare services

Impact #6	There will be equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality education. (SDG 4.3)
Type of Impact	This is a positive impact, that is actual and direct.
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	Local communities-Present and future
Resulting Change in Well-being	Increase in education opportunities for youth and local community members, leading to the increased capacity of individuals in project communities

Impact #7	There will be equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical and vocational education (SDG 4.3)
Type of Impact	This is a positive impact, that is actual and direct.
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	Local communities-Present and future
Resulting Change in Well-being	Increase in education opportunities for local community members, leading to the increased capacity of individuals in project communities

Impact #8	All education facilities will be child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all. (SDG 4.A)
Type of Impact	This is a positive impact, that is actual and direct.

Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	Local communities-Present and future
Resulting Change in Well-being	Increase in education opportunities for local community members, leading to the increased capacity of individuals in project communities

Impact #9	Women will have full and effective participation and equal opportunity for employment and leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life in the Project Zone. (SDG 5.5)
Type of Impact	This is a positive impact, that is actual and direct.
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	Local communities-Present and future
Resulting Change in Well-being	Increase in female employment opportunities in the project and reduced inequality for women in employment and leadership opportunities.

Impact #10	Clean water access will increase in Project Zone communities through the implementation of water-related projects. (SDG 6.1)
Type of Impact	This is a positive impact, that is actual and direct.
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	Local communities-Present and future
Resulting Change in Well-being	Increase access to safe drinking water

Impact #11	Increased access to education, employment and training opporttunies for the youth in the Project Zone communities due to financial aid in the form of bursaries. (SDG 8.6)
Type of Impact	This is a positive impact, that is actual and direct.

Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	Local communities-Present and future
Resulting Change in Well-being	Increased access to education

Impact #12	Project Zone community members will have improved livelihoods and/or income generated. (SDG 10.0)
Type of Impact	This is a positive impact, that is actual and direct.
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	Local communities-Present and future
Resulting Change in Well-being	Increased access to education, employment, and social amenities

Impact #13	Females will benefit from the livelihood improvements at the household level (SDG 10.0)
Type of Impact	This is a positive impact, that is actual and direct.
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	Local communities-Present and future
Resulting Change in Well-being	Increased access to education, employment, and social amenities for women

Impact #14	The number of community and school awareness meetings/events/ activities on REDD+ will increase. (SDG 12.8)
Type of Impact	This is a positive impact, that is actual and direct.
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	Local communities-Present and future
Resulting Change in Well-being	Increase in the project area communities awareness of sustainable development, environmentalism and protection of wildlife.

Impact #15	The number of community members who understand the link between environmental protection, REDD & livelihoods will increase. (SDG 13.3)
Type of Impact	This is a positive impact, that is actual and direct.
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	Local communities-Present and future
Resulting Change in Well-being	Improve the awareness of climate change and conservation and increase capacity on climate change mitigation.

Impact #16	The Project will continue to maintain support for the three local community institutions (Locational Carbon Committee, Bursary Committees and Community-based Organizations) which continues to instill a stronger sense of self-determination. (SDG 16.7)
Type of Impact	This is a positive impact, that is actual and direct.
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	Local communities-Present and future
Resulting Change in Well-being	Promotes a stronger sense of self-determination within the community

Impact #17	There will be increased transfer and dissemination of environmentally sound agriculture strategies. (SDG 17.7)
Type of Impact	This is a positive impact, that is actual and direct.
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	Local communities-Present and future
Resulting Change in Well-being	Through trainings in improved agricultural methods there will be an increase in resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies in agriculture in the project area communities.

3.3 Stakeholder Monitoring Plan

In measuring and monitoring impacts of KCRPI on local communities, Wildlife Works applies the cause-and-effect logic (causal model) and associated theories of change. A theory of change is a hypothesis about how a project intends to achieve its intended objectives. Since they are based on several assumptions about the cause-and-effect relationships, carefully selected indicators are needed to monitor these assumptions in a causal chain analysis. The main strength of this logic lies in presenting a credible response to the challenge of attribution: indicators measure progress towards achieving the desired project outcomes and impacts from project activities and strategies. To this end, Wildlife Works holds Social and Biodiversity Impact Assessment (SBIA) community workshops to engage the community in thinking about the key issues they can benefit from the project, how things would have been without the project, how they may be with the Project, and any potential risks and / or negative impacts.

Wildlife Works has had a permanent, on-the-ground presence in this area since 1998 in the KCRPI region. When we first began operating on the landscape, we sought out the consent of the surrounding communities and stakeholders. Throughout our history in the area, we maintained a near constant consultation and feedback gathering process. With the development of the REDD+ mechanism in 2008, WWC sought to utilize it as a long-term, sustainable funding mechanism. In 2009 WWC began a formal consultative process with the stakeholders of the Project Area and to the surrounding communities. These formed the basis of the first SBIA community workshop held in 2011. The following five Focal Issues were identified by the communities during this initial workshop as the key issues facing the community that the project could help with: (i) Governance: incorporating leadership and gender inclusivity; (ii) Poverty: jobs and income-generating activities; (iii) Human-wildlife conflict; (iv) Environmental degradation: including deforestation and agricultural issues; and (v) Education. A result chain diagram was produced for each Focal Issue, which formed the basis of indicator identification and the KCRPI monitoring plan (the original workshop proceedings are available and can be provided to the VVB on request). Five follow up SBIA workshops have been held (2013, 2014, 2015, 2017 and 2019) following up on these issues by reviewing project implementation issues and household survey data, plus assessing whether there have been any major changes or emerging issues.

Table 6. The KCRPI Social Impact Assessment Monitoring Plan

Focal Issue	Key results	SMART Objective	Code	Indicator	Indicator type	Data collection method	Who?	When?	Where?
Human-wildlife conflicts	Adequate vegetation and water	By 2034, reduce human-wildlife conflict by improving water harvesting and wildlife habitats	SIA001	# water holes scooped within the Project Zone for wildlife and/or cattle	Output	Internal report	Community Outreach	Monitoring Period	Project Zone
			SIA002	# wildlife/cattle using the water holes year-round	Outcome	Internal report	Community Outreach	Monitoring Period	Project Zone
			SIA003	# persons accessing new water sources	Outcome	Internal report	WWCT	Annually	Project Zone
	Reduced encroachment and poaching	By 2034, reduce human-wildlife	SIA004	# rangers and security guards employed	Output	Internal report	Security	Annually	Project Accounting Area

		conflict by reducing encroachment and poaching through increase protection and security.							
			SIA005	# training courses held for skills development	Output	Internal report	Security	Annually	Project Accounting Area
			SIA006	# outposts established and operational	Output	Internal report	Security	Annually	Project Accounting Area
			SIA007	# patrols and/or distance travelled	Outcome	Internal report	Security	Monitoring Period	Project Zone
			SIA008	# poachers and illegal charcoal producers arrested	Outcome	Internal report	Security	Monitoring Period	Project Zone
			SIA009	# snares recovered	Outcome	Internal report	Security	Monitoring Period	Project Accounting Area

			SIA010	#carcasses/injured animals recorded	Impact	Internal report	Security	Annually	Project Accounting Area
			SIA011	# hectares deforested, excised or converted into farmland	Impact	GIS/internal reporting	Security/Ops	Annually	Project Accounting Area
	Better wildlife containment	By 2034, reduce the number of human-wildlife conflicts by through the better containment of wildlife	SIA012	# and type of deterrents deployed	Output	Internal report	Operations	Annually	Project Accounting Area
			SIA013	# human-wildlife conflict encounters	Impact	Biodiversity Monitoring	Operations	Monitoring Period	Project Accounting Area
Education	Increased enrollment	By 2034, the number of children enrolled in schools will	SIA014	# awareness meetings/events/activities on REDD+ and education	Output	Social Monitoring	Community liaison	Monitoring Period	Project Zone

		have increased		matters in schools					
			SIA015	# students supported by the WW bursary scheme	Output	Facilities' records	WWCT	Monitoring Period	Project Zone
			SIA016	Amount of money spent on WW bursary scheme	Output	Facilities' records	WWCT	Monitoring Period	Project Zone
			SIA017	% students not in school due to lack of fees	Impact	Household survey	BSMT	Monitoring Period	Koh Kong Province
			SIA018	Performance of pupils supported (full scholarship)	Impact	Facilities' records	Community liaison	Monitoring Period	Project Zone
	Better education infrastructure	By 2034, Projects mainly involved classroom and toilets construction and renovation, will provide	SIA019	# classrooms constructed or other school renovations	Output	Facilities' records	Operations /WWCT	Monitoring Period	Project Zone

		students and teachers a better learning environment.							
			SIA020	# and type of education infrastructure installed	Output	Internal report	Operations /WWCT	Monitoring Period	Project Zone
			SIA021	# pupils using the infrastructure built	Outcome	Internal report	Community liason	Monitoring Period	Project Zone
Environmental degradation	Increased tree cover in landscape	By 2034, and increase of tree propagation and planting, a reduction in illegal clearing will lead to an increased tree cover in the landscape	SIA022	# and types of trees propagated in the WW nursery	Output	Internal report	Operations / Greenhouse	Monitoring Period	Project Zone

			SIA023	# trees planted and surviving beyond the 3rd year outside KCRPII	Outcome	Internal report	Greenhouse	Annually	Project Zone
			SIA024	% households obtaining fuelwood and other needs from the Project ranches	Impact	Internal report	BSMT	Annually	Project Accounting Area
	Improved forest quality and cover	By 2034, the reduction of clearings will improve the quality of forest cover and lead to increased biodiversity within the Project	SIA025	# charcoal bags and kilns recorded	Outcome	Internal report	Sec/BSMT	Annually	Project Accounting Area
			SIA026	# log heaps recorded	Outcome	Internal report	Sec/BSMT	Annually	Project Accounting Area

			SIA027	# and diversity of wildlife in the Project ranches year-round	Impact	Internal report	BSMT	Annually	Project Accounting Area
Governance	Good leadership	By 2034, the community will continue to work to incorporate leadership inclusivity	SIA028	# and location of Notice Boards and Suggestion Boxes used for KCRPII purposes	Output	Internal report	WWCT	Annually	Project Accounting Area
			SIA029	# community awareness meetings/events/activities on REDD+ and other matters	Output	Internal report	Community liaison	Monitoring Period	Project Zone
			SIA030	# complaints or questions on project implementation and LCC's functioning filed and acted upon	Outcome	Internal report	Community liaison	Monitoring Period	Project Zone
			SIA031	% community understanding link between	Output	Internal report	BSMT	Monitoring Period	Project Zone

				environmental protection, REDD & livelihoods					
Poverty	Diversified livelihoods & food security	By 2034, increased # of community members with diversified livelihoods and increased food security	SIA032	# agro-processing, value-addition, storage initiatives	Output	Internal report	Ops/WWCT	Monitoring Period	Project Zone
			SIA033	Proportion of households with on-farm production for home use or sale	Impact	Household survey	BSMT	Monitoring Period	Project Zone
			SIA034	# agriculture-related training courses or extension events	Output	Internal report	Greenhouse	Monitoring Period	Project Zone

			SIA035	# new/improved practices on farms	Output	Internal report	Ops/BSMT	Monitoring Period	Project Zone
			SIA036	# community (agri-business) greenhouses established	Outcome	Internal report	Greenhouse	Monitoring Period	Project Zone
	Increased and stable income	By 2034, community members will be earning and increased and steady income as a result of the Project activities	SIA037	# local community members employed at WW	Output	Internal report	HR	Monitoring Period	Koh Kong Province
			SIA038	# training courses/workshops held for skill/personal development	Output	Internal report	HR	Monitoring Period	Project Zone
			SIA039	total amount and sources of income earned by household	Impact	Internal report	BSMT	Monitoring Period	Koh Kong Province

3.4 Net Positive Stakeholder Well-being Impacts

The community project activities undertaken and summarized under Section 2.1.2 were all determined by the community themselves (through their elected representatives to the LCCs); LCCs are the community organizations with executive authority on making decisions on community projects to be undertaken. Their decisions are based on the SBIA workshop outcomes, specifically on the main (focal) issues that the Project has undertaken, as described under Section 2.1.9 above.

Consequently, based on the theory of change logic, we argue that the Project is having positive impacts to the local communities by addressing the main problems they identified e.g., through water and health projects, school infrastructure improvement, bursary schemes, employment and income-generating activities, agri-business schemes etc. Whereas most of the community impacts are long term, the results chain demonstrates how they will be realized from the current project activities.

Though the various KCRPI project activities, focusing on the reduction of human-wildlife conflicts (through active patrols and response, testing various deterrents and improved farming methods), diversifying the incomes of the community to reduce reliance on Wildlife Works as the sole employer, and working with the community (local) landowners to resolve their grazing issues (e.g., through improving their livestock and reducing the need to accept environmentally detrimental grazing leases, which are frequently abused), the net impacts from KCRPI are positive to the local communities within and outside the Project Zone as further expanded upon below:

1) Human-wildlife conflict: any potential increase in human-wildlife conflicts due to the project was checked by habitat improvements within the ranches to retain wildlife inside (e.g., dam scooping and borehole sinking for water provision), and increased patrols and responses to incursions by Wildlife Works and KWS ranger teams

2) Dependence on Wildlife Works: an exclusive dependence on Wildlife Works for livelihood was lessened by growing ecotourism ventures and other revenue streams such as Hadithi (for weavers) to diversify revenue sources, and developing agro-business schemes with women groups to enhance food security and build income base

3) Grazing: the need for grazing land by the surrounding community was ameliorated by diversification away from only livestock keeping through introducing new income generating alternatives, and where necessary, providing well-regulated dry season access made possible by the reduction in external leases to (mostly) Somali grazers

4) Alternative farmland: A need for alternative farmland for the Duruma people predominantly living in and around the Sasenyi area was also diminished through some direct and indirect effort like providing alternative livelihoods through job creation, plus other project benefits e.g.,

school support and bursaries, and agricultural improvement including climate-smart agriculture and fence deterrents at Sasenyi.

4 BENEFITS FOR THE PLANET

4.1 Condition of Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services at Project Start

Climate

The climate in this region of Kenya is semi-arid, with average annual rainfall in the 300-450mm range. There are no permanent water sources on the Project Land. Historically rains occurred seasonally twice a year, in December and April, known as the grass rains and the long rains respectively. However, over the past ten years from the project start date, local climatic conditions appear much more irregular and there have been two periods of extended drought in the last ten years. The project is located at 3° S of the equator and receives strong sunshine most days of the year. The coolest month is August, the hottest February.

Soils

The dominant soil type within the Project Area is red laterite soil typical of this region of Kenya. There are small bands of black cotton soil that occur randomly within the project area but account for a tiny and we believe insignificant element from the standpoint of the Project Soils pool. There are also areas within the Project Boundary where Gneiss Islands, or rocky outcrops penetrate the soils to form small rocky hills. These outcrops represent a tiny and we believe insignificant portion of the land and therefore were ignored from the standpoint of the Project Soils pool.

Geology

This area is dominated geologically by the remnants of the Eastern Arc Mountains, which include the Taita Hills, Mt. Kasigau, seen in this photo at the southern end of the Project area, and lesser hills such as Sagalla, and the Marungu Range that runs North-South down the Western boundary of the Project Area. These hills are home to remnant patches of montane or cloud forest, and to several endemic species of bird and flora.

Vegetation

The vegetation in the Project Area was been stratified into four strata roughly corresponding to different elevations that range within the Project Area from 1500-3500 feet above sea level.

1) Montane Forest
On the slopes of the Marungu Range from 2000-3500 ft elevation, that forms the western boundary of the Project Area, there are still fragments of montane forest (1%), similar in composition to the much more well studied forest fragments of the Taita Hills that are located

50kms NW of the Project Area. The Taita Hills forest fragments in Southeast Kenya currently cover an area of only ca. 3 km2. This reflects a 98% reduction in indigenous forest cover over the last 200 years, mainly due to clearance for agriculture (Myers et. al 1999, Newmark 2002). Despite the small size of the twelve remaining forest fragments (range 1-179 ha, 9 fragments < 10 ha) these remnants are of global conservation importance because of their long list of rare and endemic species, both flora and fauna. The fragmentation of this strata occurred prior to our arrival as a result of illegal harvest for building poles and fuelwood by members of the communities adjacent to the Project Area in the years of early population colonization of the community lands located there. There are still some patches of primary forest in this area.

2) Dryland Forest

The majority of the Project Area (86%) is comprised of Acacia-Commiphora Dryland Forest, where the dominant species are drought specialists, possessing a number of strategies to find and preserve moisture in a semi-arid environment, including dropping or folding all foliage in dry periods to reduce moisture loss from transpiration, when they photosynthesize through their bark to survive. These include;

- Acacia tortilis,
- Acacia nilotica,
- Acacia bussei,
- Acacia hockii,
- Commiphora africana,
- Commiphora campestris,
- Commiphora confusa.

The average canopy height is between 5-7m with the maximum height being approximately 10m. There are occasional taller hardwood species such as;

- Terminalia spinosa,
- Melia volkensii,
- Boscia coriacea,
- Cassia abbreviata,
- Newtonia hildebrantii

In total 50 species of tree were encountered during the extensive plot sampling performed for this project. The great majority of this strata is in its historic condition, and although there have been anthropogenic activities on the Project for the past 35 years, such as cattle grazing, ecotourism, there has been no significant alteration to the forest. One unique characteristic of this project is the extent to which African elephants (Loxidonta africana) damage the trees in

the dryland forest as they feed and in order some believe to open up the canopy to allow more grasses to grow. As a conservative measure we have chosen not to count fallen dead wood in our carbon stocks, although in some instances there is a significant amount due to elephant damage.

3) Savannah Grassland

At the lowest elevations of the Project Area (8%) and in a band that runs irregularly through the Project Area the thick Acacia-Commiphora Forest thins and eventually transitions to patches of grassland. The Grassland strata is comprised of indigenous savannah grasses and shrubs, with the occasion Acacia zanzibarica. Again this strata is in its historic condition, and provides significant support for the biodiversity within the Project Area, feeding large ungulates such as Cape buffalo, Common and Grevy's zebra and Eland.

4) Agricultural Encroachment Area

Prior to our arrival in 1999, a portion of the Western boundary of the Project Area (4.7%) had been cleared by slash and burn agriculture and converted to annual maize production. After our arrival when the farms were abandoned, the strata is now recovering as native bush and grassland but is distinguished within this project from primary native Savannah Grasslands, as it is located on the slopes of the Marungu Range and therefore at one time would have been Montane Forest, and may develop a unique reforested species mix over time. Although this stratum is not in its historic condition, it provides significant support for the biodiversity within the Project Area, feeding large ungulates such as Cape buffalo, Common and Grevy's zebra and Eland.

Biodiversity

The Project Area, Rukinga Ranch, now known as Rukinga Wildlife Sanctuary is part of the greater Tsavo ecosystem, a semi-arid area of Dryland Forest interspersed with Savannah Grasslands that spreads north to the Tana River and South into Tanzania. It is an ecosystem with incredible species diversity of large mammals and birds, the vast majority of the area falls with Tsavo East and Tsavo West National Parks. The Project Zone forms a corridor of land between the two National Parks and as such almost all of the species present in the National Parks are also present on Rukinga. Rukinga provides a home and area of relative safety to several key species of interest, including an average population of African elephants (Loxodonta africana) estimated between 200 and 300. A few other notable species present on Rukinga are lion (Panthera leo), leopard (Panthera pardus), cheetah (Acinonyx jubatus), serval cat (Felis serval), spotted hyena (Crocuta crocuta), African hunting dog (Lycaon pictus) and about 12 species of ungulates, such as eland (Taurotragus oryx), Cape buffalo (Syncerus caffer) and the highly endangered Grevy's zebra (Equus grevyi). A wide range of other species is included in the area's wildlife population, among them various carnivores, primates, rodents, reptiles, amphibians, and over 300 avian species. In addition to animal species, Rukinga is home to thousands of species of plants indigenous to the Tsavo ecosystem.

Within the KCRPI Reference Area are the Taita Hills, whose indigenous forests hold globally important biodiversity, and are part of the Eastern Arc Mountains Hotspot. They are recognized as an Important bird area in Kenya, due to the presence of the two Critically Endangered bird species: the Taita Thrush and Taita Apalis. Dr. Mwangi Githiru, Wildlife Works' Director for Biodiversity and Social Monitoring is the "Species Guardian" for both species and continues to be involved in their research, monitoring and conservation.

Types of Threats

Poor Law Enforcement

Habitat reduction, degradation and fragmentation

Exploitation and fragmentation

Please see Section 3.1 for the Causal Chain Models (Figure 5).

4.1.1 High Conservation Values

Wildlife Works Rangers monitor the wildlife populations on Rukinga on a daily basis, and maintain a daily log of all wildlife sightings of key species so we can monitor the health of the Rukinga Ecosystem and the populations of the endangered species. With more carbon finance we would be able to expand on the reporting we have been able to do on this important collection of research data, and we could develop specific objectives related to monitoring the endangered species specifically.

Wildlife Works has been gathering systematic data on wildlife populations since 2011. Dr. Mwangi Githiru continues to function as Wildlife Works' Biodiversity and Social Monitoring Director. He oversees the biodiversity monitoring team, whose role is to gather, verify, analyze and report key biodiversity indicators. Additional biodiversity data is collected by the forest rangers, who record the location of HCV wildlife and other points of interest whilst on their daily patrols. The goal is to demonstrate that the project is delivering on the stated commitment to improving the situation of the HCV species present in the Project Area. All biodiversity data that is collected is managed and analyzed by Dr. Githiru and his team at Rukinga Sanctuary. Dr. Githiru produces a robust annual or biennial Biodiversity and Social Monitoring Report. These data on biodiversity presence, population trends, distribution are also occasionally published in peer-reviewed journals, besides being summarized annually in this Monitoring Report (see section 2.2.14).

4.2 Expected Impacts on Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services

Impact #18	The Project will continue to protect the Project Area and reduce emissions of CO_2e. (SDG 16.7)
Type of Impact	This is a positive impact, that is actual and direct.

Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	Forest ecosystems, biodiversity, endangered species, air quality, carbon sequestration
Resulting Change in Well-being	The project is taking urgent action to combat climate change by avoiding significant emissions of CO_2e by stopping deforestation

Impact #19	The Project will continue to protect the 169,741.38 ha of the Project Area under conservation management. (SDG 17.7)
Type of Impact	This is a positive impact, that is actual and direct.
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	Forest ecosystems, biodiversity, endangered species, air quality, carbon sequestration
Resulting Change in Well-being	Through the protection of the project area the area will have increased levels of resilience and adaptive capacity to climate related hazards and natural disasters.

Impact #20	All threatened species in the Project Area will be protected and safeguarded against extinction. (SDG 15.5)
Type of Impact	This is a positive impact, that is actual and direct.
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	biodiversity, endangered species
Resulting Change in Well-being	Increased protection of biodiversity and preserving and protecting threatened species from extinction.

Impact #21	The poaching and trafficking of protected species will be reduced by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities. (SDG 15.7)
Type of Impact	This is a positive impact, that is actual and direct.
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	biodiversity, endangered species

Resulting Change in Well-being	Reduce the amount of poaching and trafficked wildlife within the Project Area.

Impact #22	The poaching and trafficking of protected species will be reduced by increasing the capacity of local communities to fight crime in the Project Area (SDG 15.7)
Type of Impact	This is a positive impact, that is actual and direct.
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	biodiversity, endangered species
Resulting Change in Well-being	Reduce the amount of poaching, trafficked wildlife, and illegal charcoal production within the Project Area.

4.3 Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services Monitoring Plan

The purpose of our climate/carbon monitoring plan is to ensure that the project has protected the Rukinga Forest from any unplanned GHG emissions during the project crediting period, and that no identifiable leakage has occurred that can be attributed to this project.

Monitoring of emissions reductions generated by the project activities are based on two sets of data, the first being the current carbon inventory of the land, which was conducted using a fixed permanent plot methodology, accepted by all as a more accurate method for forest inventory than remote sensing, and the second being the use of Landsat satellite imagery for the past 15 years prior to the beginning of the project, which clearly demonstrates the rate of deforestation in the project area. For the first set of data, it is our intention to carry out annual resampling of a subset of the total number of permanent plots originally created for the forest inventory, to remeasure DBH, height, and status of all the trees originally included in the inventory for each plot.

For the second set of data it is our intention to continue to use satellite imagery to monitor the presence or absence of further deforestation in the project area, the project zone and the leakage belt. Because the type of deforestation occurring in this project area is total removal of tree cover for slash and burn agriculture, it is very easy to observe changes made using satellite imagery.

Soil carbon is monitored at least once every five years. The methodology employs a soil carbon decay model, which estimates the release of carbon from soil after being converted from forested land to cropland. This soil model, accepted at the validation of this Project, does not require yearly re-measurement of each soil carbon plot to maintain an accurate depiction of soil carbon behavior.

Wildlife Works maintains a permanent presence in the community and therefore we receive feedback on a daily basis in the form of our staff's interactions with the communities, our Rangers monitoring the presence or absence of illegal activities in the Project Area, as well as our direct involvement in almost every aspect of community development from schools to clinics to job creation and community groups. We initiated the process of the independent audit of our community influence conducted by Marit Rietveld in August 2007 and with adequate financial support from the Carbon project we anticipate being able to develop a streamlined version of her comprehensive report that could be executed by an independent group on a regular basis. The variables of importance can be identified from her report but at minimum would include;

- Average household income – dry and wet season
- Number full time WW employees
- % community responding favorably to WW presence
- % community directly and indirectly benefiting from WW presence
- Number of poaching incidents
- Number of cattle grazing incursions
- Number of fuelwood or construction material incursions
- Acres deforested in Project Area and Zone
- Acres reforested in community land

Wildlife Works applies a similar cause-and-effect logic when measuring and monitoring impacts of KCRPI on biodiversity. A theory of change is a hypothesis about how a project intends to achieve its intended objectives. Because they are based on several assumptions about the cause-and-effect relationships, carefully selected indicators are needed to monitor these assumptions in a causal chain analysis. The main strength of this logic lies in presenting a credible response to the challenge of attribution: indicators measure progress towards achieving the desired project outcomes and impacts from project activities and strategies. To this end, Wildlife Works holds Social and Biodiversity Impact Assessment (SBIA) workshops to engage experts and the community in thinking about how things would have been without the Project, envisage how they may be with the Project, and identify any potential risks and / or negative impacts.

For KCRPI, Wildlife Works held the seminal Biodiversity Impact Assessment (BIA) workshop in 2011 involving representatives from the various sections whose work touched on biodiversity issues. Additional insights were obtained from the SIA workshop described in the preceding section. They identified the following four Focal Issues that they felt the Project should address: (i) safeguarding HCV wildlife – reducing poaching; (ii) protecting the habitat including Mt. Kasigau; (iii) Reducing human-wildlife conflicts; and (iv) Corridor maintenance. For each of these, the result chain diagrams were produced along with their associated theory of change statements. This formed the basis of indicator identification and monitoring plan development.

Wildlife Works' core activities are aimed at protecting, safeguarding or improving the status of biodiversity and wildlife across the entire KCRPI area, with a focus on HCV species. Consequently, the monitoring plan results, based on the underlying causal logic in our theory of change analysis, indicate existing or potential improvement in the four Focal Issues above, in particular:

i. Safeguarding HCV species – improved monitoring, patrol and law enforcement which will lead to reduced poaching, plus improved habitats (e.g., from water provision through dam scooping);
ii. Protecting the habitat including Mt. Kasigau – through planting of trees in the surrounding landscape to reduce future pressure on the forest resources on the mountain;
iii. Reducing human-wildlife conflicts – through deployment of emergency response teams, continued close liaison with KWS Community Engagement Team and Problem Animal Control Units, and improvement of habitat (including water) within KCRPI to retain wildlife within the ranches; and
iv. Corridor maintenance – by enhancing conditions within KCRPI for wildlife including reduced poaching and improved habitats, KCRPI is at a better position to function as a corridor habitat, both for dispersing and wide-ranging species like elephants, wild dogs and big cats.

Wildlife Works has a long and successful track record of monitoring the Project Area, catching poachers and charcoal burners before they can do significant damage to the ecosystem, and dealing with the offenders in a non-violent way working closely with the Kenya government authorities. Neither the project nor members of the community related to the project benefit in any way from these illegal activities.

4.4 Net Positive Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services Impacts

For KCRPI, the baseline scenario is mainly deforestation due to unplanned agricultural expansion by subsistence farmers. This is normally preceded by charcoal production and pole harvesting which are the major causes of forest degradation. Other activities in the Project Area included grazing (through provision of grazing leases) and low-level ecotourism ventures. Under this baseline, or "without-project scenario", biodiversity (both flora and fauna) would be adversely affected through reduced habitat quality, poaching or other forms of disturbance and persecution. It is difficult to determine with certainty whether there has been any increase in the HCV species abundance, population size, trends or range during this monitoring period due to natural fluxes in these variables. However, the successful protection of critical dryland forest during this monitoring period and documented throughout this report denotes that the size, quality and diversity of habitat has been maintained (and improved e.g., from the provision of water), as has overall landscape connectivity from avoided forest loss and fragmentation. This has provided an area of high-quality habitat and a key migratory corridor linking vital habitats and protected areas, reducing the potential for the animals to cause conflict with communities and the risks to them that would result. These are clear pointers that the biodiversity within KCRPI is better than it would have been in the absence of the Project.

5 OPTIONAL: CLIMATE MODULE

Prior to seeking validation and verification under the SD VISta, KCRPI has been validated and verified under both the VCS and CCB standards, with 3,644,822 tCO_2e verified emissions reductions and removals to date. The project plans to continue verifying greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions and removals under the VCS standard. Please see KCRPI's joint VCS and CCB monitoring reports and project description document (available on the Verra project registry website) for more information on project methodology, monitoring, verified carbon units, and net emissions reductions.