



## Yaeda-Eyasi Landscape Project

### **Protecting forests for Indigenous people, wildlife and climate**

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The Yaeda-Eyasi Landscape Project links sustainable management of wildlife-rich forests to economic and livelihood improvements. It protects 110,000 ha of dryland forest in northern Tanzania, the ancestral homeland of the Hadza hunter-gatherers. The Hadza have lived in the Yaeda Valley area for 40,000 years. Their lifestyle represents the most ancient form of human existence on earth, and they depend on the health of the environment to sustain it.

The neighbouring Datooga pastoralist communities also depend on a healthy natural ecosystem in order for them to practise their traditional semi nomadic pastoralist lifestyle. In 2021, nine Datooga communities joined forces with the Hadza to protect an area of dryland forest that connects the Yaeda Valley to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area.



## Threats to the environment

Immigrant farmers looking for new agricultural land see the Hadza and Datooga forests as unused and over time have illegally encroached upon their rangelands, converting forests to cropland as they go. This land use change threatens forests, biodiversity and the existence of the Hadza people with their ancient culture and traditions.

Over a 50-year period the Hadza lost 90% of their ancestral rangelands to migrating pastoralists and agriculturalists conducting unsustainable farming practises. Prior to project development the deforestation rate in the area was above the national average. Deforestation in the Yaeda Valley has now decreased to almost zero.

## Climate change mitigation

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

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

## Land rights and forest protection

The best stewards of forests are the indigenous people that have been living with those ecosystems for thousands of years. The Yaeda-Eyasi

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

The Hadza became the first group of people in Tanzania to be issued a community Certificate of Customary Right of Occupation (CCRO). Essentially a 'title' for their land, it gave them ownership of the resources in their territory and legal enforcement against encroachment. Following this landmark achievement, the Datooga applied for and then received their own CCRO in 2016.

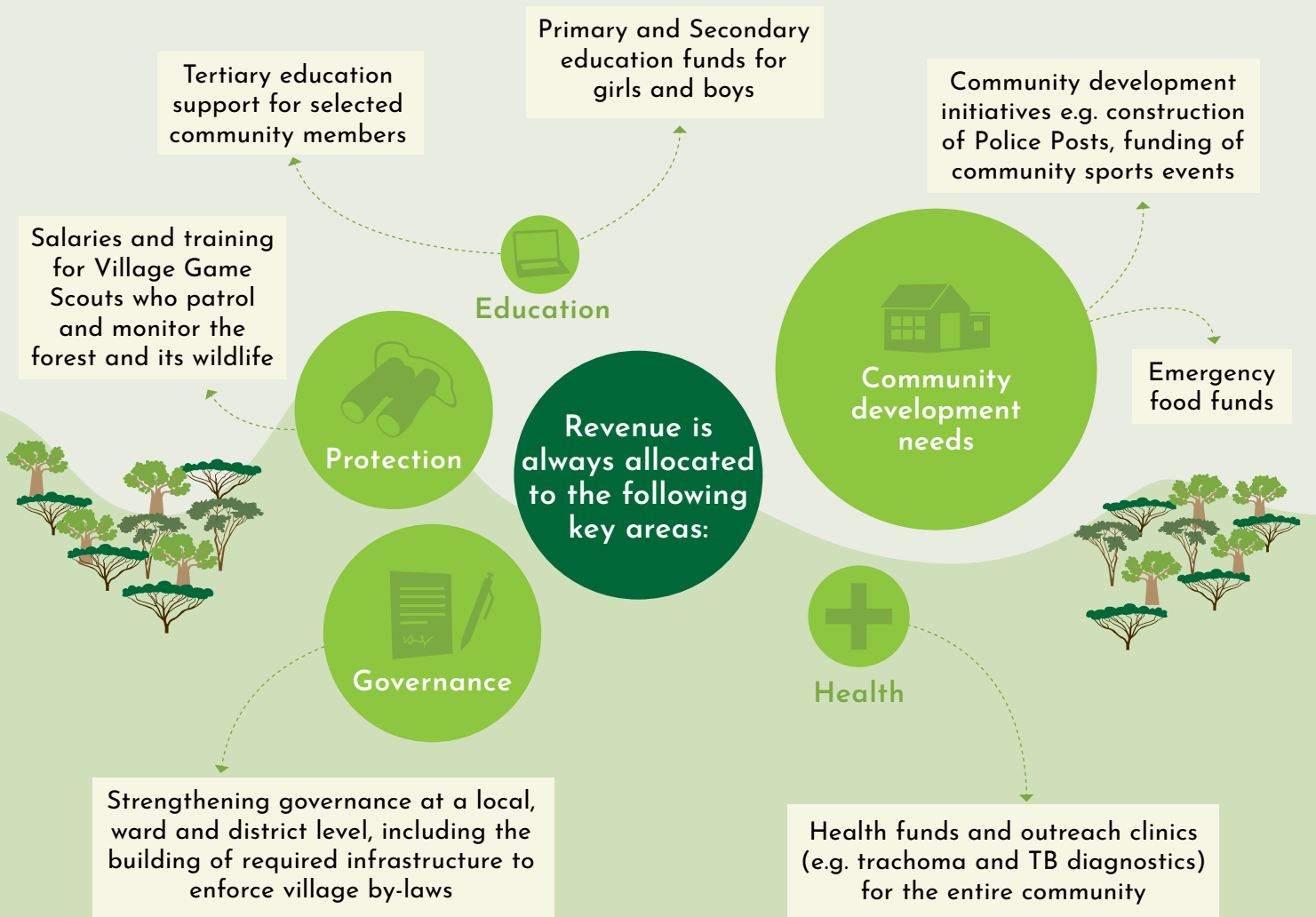
## Biodiversity

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

Christian Kiffner, Centre of Wildlife Management Studies, monitored wildlife numbers in the Yaeda Valley over a 5-year period and found an increase in giraffe numbers in the project area at a time when giraffe numbers are declining across the continent. The project also protects natural landscape for wildlife connecting to the Ngorongoro Crater Conservation Area, a critical requirement for migratory species.

# Where the money goes

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



# Impacts

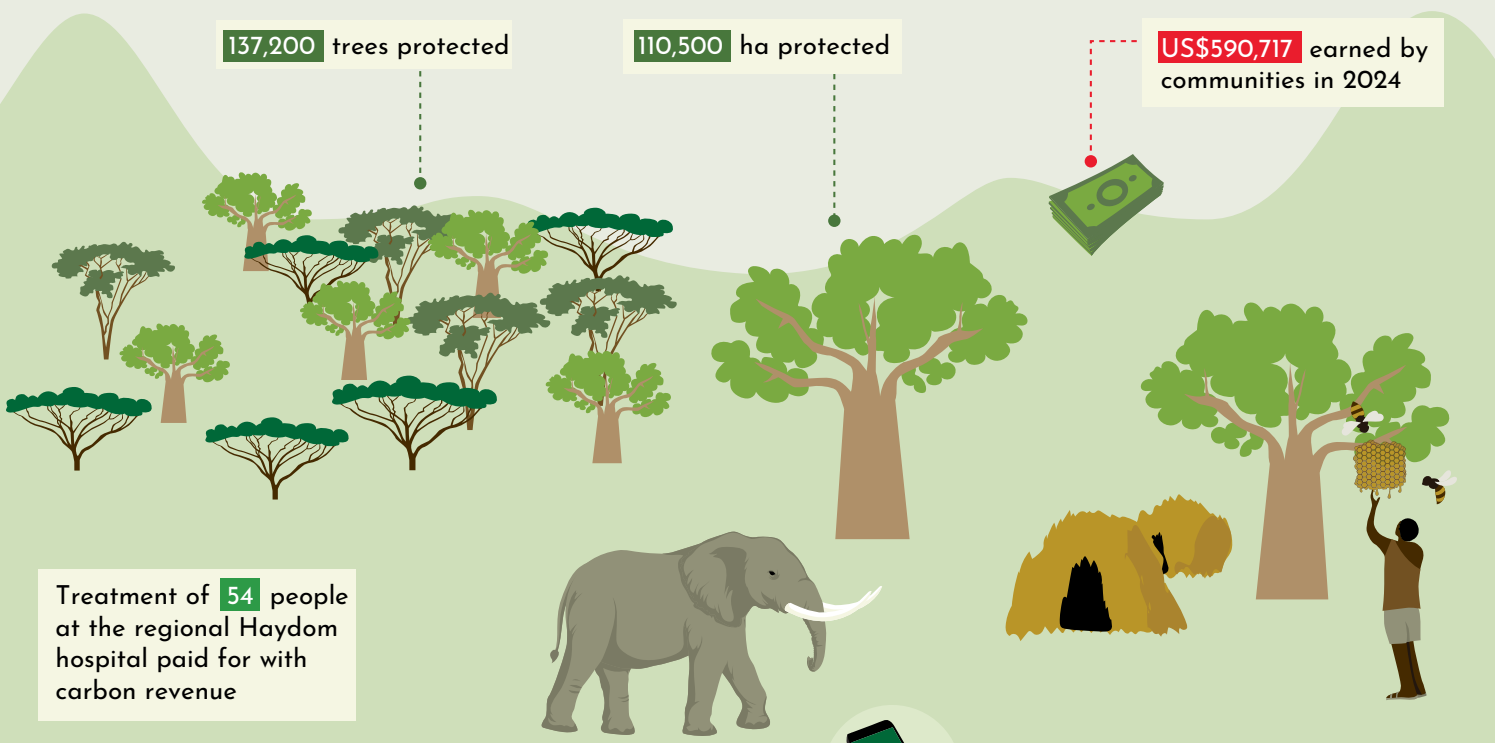
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137,200 trees protected

110,500 ha protected

US\$590,717 earned by communities in 2024



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

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



148 VGS

31 women Village Game Scouts an 83% increase

Fees for 126 secondary students and 14 university students paid for by carbon revenue  
5 primary schools had meals provided for with carbon revenue



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Protecting forests for communities, wildlife, and climate

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