

PROTECTING FORESTS FOR FARMERS, WILDLIFE & CLIMATE

Ntakata Mountains Project



carbontanzania

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A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Ntakata Mountains project protects 216,994ha of Miombo woodland in the Greater Mahale Ecosystem, western Tanzania by developing Village Forest Reserves (VFRs) with local communities. The Bende, Tongwe and the Ha people are farmers of this richly forested landscape and have always cared for the forests that cover the mountains around their communities - they treat the Mkuyu and Strangler Fig trees as sacred. They grow crops and raise some livestock in well-watered valleys, depending on healthy forests for water catchment, healthy soils and other products and services.

The farming communities of the Bende and Tongwe protect their forest, and its valuable stored carbon, and generate an income from carbon offset sales to conduct their conservation activities through REDD.

Threats to the Environment

These forest habitats are being destroyed by slash and burn agriculture carried out by a steady influx of migrants from all parts of Tanzania as well as from across the country's Western border. In addition, grazing by pastoralists, mining, and the development of new infrastructure including roads, negatively impact the forest, with consequences for water resources and livelihoods as well as for wildlife conservation. Prior to project development, the deforestation rate in the area was three times the national average.

Climate Change Mitigation

Preventing deforestation can mitigate 31% 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 Ntakata Mountains conservation project is reversing this trend, reducing Tanzania's rate of forest loss.





Land Rights and Forest Protection

The best stewards of forests are the indigenous people that have been living with those ecosystems for thousands of years. The communities have demarcated Village Forest Reserves accompanied by village land use plans that allow them to protect these forests while farming designated areas. The payments from carbon credits strengthen their ability to enforce these plans and prevent illegal land clearance.

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

Biodiversity

Biodiversity loss is currently at alarming levels across our diverse ecosystems. By protecting natural habitat and by patrolling these ecosystems to prevent wildlife 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.

By developing VFRs the communities are able to protect important habitat for the endangered eastern chimpanzee. The VFRs enhance connectivity in the Greater Mahale ecosystem between Katavi Plains and Mahale Mountains National Parks an area where Tanzania's largest population of Eastern Chimpanzees roam, as well as wild dogs and elephants.



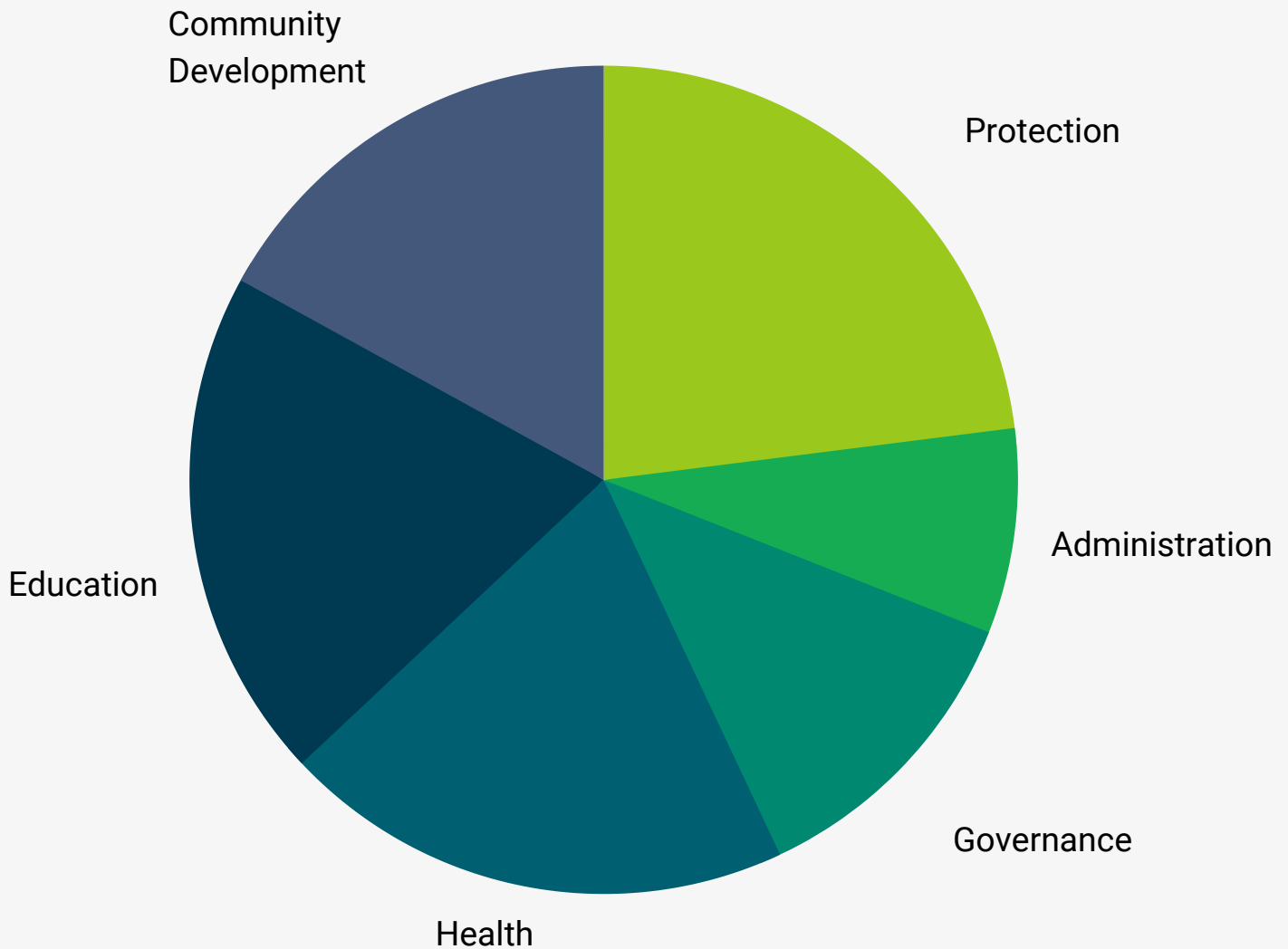
Where the Money Goes

The revenue earned from the sale of certified carbon credits is paid directly to forest communities, empowering the communities 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.

REVENUE IS ALWAYS ALLOCATED TO THE FOLLOWING KEY AREAS:

- Building infrastructure to enhance educational opportunities including classrooms, toilet blocks, teachers housing and school desks.
- Health funds and building village dispensaries.
- Salaries and training for Village Game Scouts who patrol and monitor the forest and its wildlife.
- Strengthening governance at a local, ward and district level, including the building of required infrastructure to enforce village by-laws.
- Community development initiatives e.g. construction of teachers' housing, funding of community sports events, student field trips to the VFR's.

Revenue Distribution



Verified by



Verified Carbon Standard



Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards