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The Yaeda Valley REDD Project

*Conserving a Culture and Ecosystem.
Mitigating Climate Change.*

Project Snapshot

This is the first forest carbon project in Tanzania designed in full partnership with an indigenous community. The carbon offsets generated have been validated under the third-party Plan Vivo Standard, a rigorous carbon offset certification body in the United Kingdom.

The project generates social, economic and environmental benefits, including:

- Up to \$54,000 in annual income to the participating community through the sale of offsets;
- Strengthened communal land rights and management capacity over roughly 20,000 hectares of land designated as customary land;
- Ecosystem and biodiversity conservation; and
- Climate change mitigation through the generation of an estimated 360,249 tonnes of carbon offsets over a 20-year period.

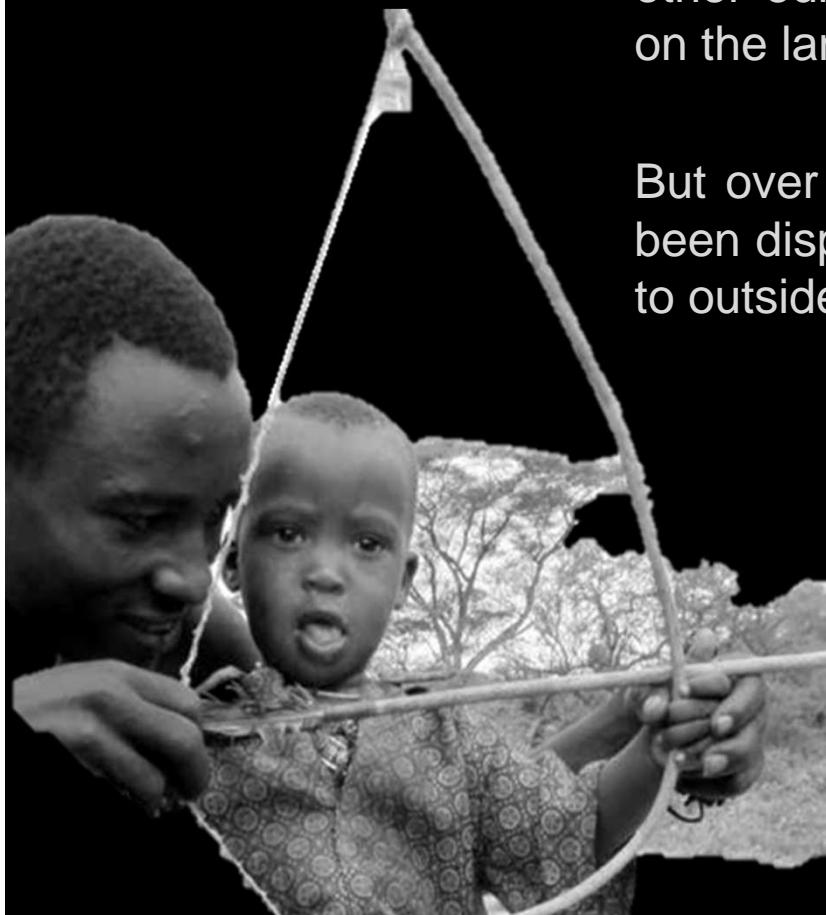
The project is designed through phases, and this is phase I. Phase II will expand the project to an additional 30,000 hectares of land.



The Hadzabe

The Hadzabe are believed to be one of the original peoples, who have likely lived in northern Tanzania's Yaeda Valley for 40,000 years or more. As hunter-gatherers, who live primarily off baobabs and dozens of other edible plants, honey, and wild meat, they depend on the land and its resources for their survival.

But over the last 50 years, the Hadzabe have gradually been displaced from this land, losing more than 90% of it to outsiders seeking land for grazing and farming.



The Yaeda Valley

In addition to being an area of unique cultural importance, the Yaeda Valley is an area of spectacular scenery and biological diversity. The valley floor floods throughout much of the wet season, bringing thousands of migratory waterfowl, terns, and shorebirds. Bordering the valley are the Kidero hills, a 30-kilometer long, baobab-studded ridgeline, which is home to elephants, lions, giraffes, greater kudu, and numerous other species, including the rare and endangered wild dog.



The Project Area

Northern Tanzania



Who's Involved



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Over the past three years Carbon Tanzania, Tanzania's first and only company dedicated to sourcing and developing community-based carbon forestry projects, has worked in partnership with the Hadzabe community to design and develop this forest carbon offset project. It is a REDD project, which stands for *Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation*.

Carbon Tanzania also partners with the Ujamaa Community Resource Team (UCRT) to co-facilitate the development and implementation of the project. The UCRT is a leading community-based natural resource management organization in northern Tanzania. It has worked with the Hadzabe community on land rights and sustainable natural resource management issues for more 15 years.

Other project partners who provide financial and technical support, include The Dorobo Fund for Tanzania, The Nature Conservancy and Maliasili Initiatives.

How it Works

The project reduces carbon dioxide emissions through avoiding deforestation and degradation in the project area and its surroundings. Success is achieved through a series of interventions geared at enabling the Hadzabe to better protect their forest from outside encroachment and conversion. These include:

- Enforcing the approved village land use plan and associated village by-laws;
- Halting encroachment and land use changes by outsiders;
- Improving forest conservation and management activities; and
- Addressing the primary driver of deforestation, slash and burn agriculture.

If implemented according to plan, an estimated 155 hectares of forest will be saved from agricultural encroachment and degradation.



The Benefits

- As required by Plan Vivo, at least 60% of sales revenue is paid to the local community to support management of the project and to provide social benefits, such as improved health care access or increased educational opportunities. Community meetings will be held so that the Hadzabe can agree upon ways to use the annual income.
- 20,000 hectares of forest and woodland is managed by the Hadzabe indigenous hunter-gatherer community
- An estimated 18,012 tonnes of carbon dioxide is avoided from entering our atmosphere every year as a result of improved forest protection and avoided encroachment and conversion.
- Several locally rare and threatened large mammal species remain protected in this area, and other seasonal animals will continue to rely on this land, such as gazelle, wildebeest, impala, giraffe and elephants.

“The Hadzabe have already received money to support community scouts and this is helping with natural resource management. The community scouts are protecting the environment as they prevent deforestation and illegal grazing by outsiders. The community is seeing the benefit of carbon markets and is looking forward to receiving an increased income.” – Dismas Partala, UCRT Yaeda Project Manager



Project Validation

The project is validated under Plan Vivo Standards, a third-party carbon offset certification body. Plan Vivo projects must demonstrate that they:

- Promote sustainable development;
- Improve rural livelihoods; and
- Enhance ecosystem conservation.

In addition, Plan Vivo projects work closely with local communities and the standard emphasizes participatory design, ongoing stakeholder consultation, and the use of native species.



“The Plan Vivo Standard is developed exclusively for use in community-based projects using a ‘payments for ecosystem services’ approach. This means that activities are undertaken directly by smallholders and community groups, who receive staged incentives and support from a ‘project coordinator’.” – Plan Vivo



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