



# Forests Bond REDD Project

## *Kasigau, Kenya*

With little economic alternatives, the community surrounding the Kasigau Corridor region in East Kenya, ravished their own forest just to meet their survival needs. Their cattle had grazed the fields into dust and they had clear-cut much of the dryland Acacia-Commiphora forest for firewood and farmland.

**Solution:** In 1998 Wildlife Works (WW) established the Rukinga Wildlife Sanctuary on 30,000 hectares of now protected land that led to the return of many species that had left the diminishing forest. More recently, WW launched Rukinga as the first REDD project which now provides income to the community and local landowners for protecting their land instead of destroying it. Not only does the program create jobs directly in conservation, it allows WW to develop eco solutions for harmful practices such as cutting down whole trees for charcoal or unsustainable farming.



The protection area has now expanded to 200,000 hectares, which are expected to offset 1.4 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per year for the next 30 years. With the dryland Acacia-Commiphora forest under protection and its original biodiversity restored, the Kasigau Corridor REDD project was awarded the Gold level status by the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance for exceptional biodiversity and climate benefits.



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