



COUNTRY	STATE	POPULATION	REDUCTION TARGET	NATIONAL EMISSIONS IN 2018
TANZANIA	MANYARA	59,734,213	-35% GHGS IN 2030 (BASE BAU)	11.58 MT

Yaeda valley • By protecting their land and wildlife, local populations obtain income through the carbon compensation mechanism

In the United Republic of Tanzania, a [forest management](#) policy is being developed involving local communities. This is the Yaeda valley project, which involves the Hadza community and contributes to achieving [12](#) of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through a carbon offset scheme.

NGOs at the origin of an initiative to restore land rights to the Hadza

One of the last hunter-gatherer tribes in the Yaeda valley, the Hadza people have lived in Tanzania for about 40,000 years. Their very ancient way of life depends on forests which provide them with everything they need: seeds, fruits, meat, water, and pasture for livestock. Over the last century, their land was reduced by [three quarters](#) largely due to the influx of immigrant farmers who illegally converted forests into farmland. This change in land use threatens the existence of the Hadza, their traditional way of life, and the biodiversity of the Yaeda valley. Faced with this problem, in 2011, the NGO [UCRT](#) started to help the Hadza people protect their land by acquiring titles to at least 32,000 hectares. The Yaeda-Elyazi project sprang from this initiative.

The project was first developed in 2011 by [Carbon Tanzania](#) and UCRT in partnership with Hadza hunter-gatherer communities under the [REDD+](#) label, a scheme for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest decline.

Protecting forests from poachers and encroaching agriculture

In its initial phase, the project covered [32,000 ha](#) of ancestral Hadza forests. As of 2019, it covers [110,500 ha](#) of forests belonging to the Hadza and Datooga peoples. Concretely, during the first phase of the project, the land use plans were worked

out as required by the Tanzanian government (as a condition for obtaining the title), by zoning farm areas, housing, pastures, merged areas, cattle pens, water catchments, hunting grounds, and the setting aside of some land for nature.

During the second phase, members of the Hadza communities were trained as scouts to patrol and collect data. They also reported any changes in land use, such as invasive and illegal farming and poaching activities. Starting from 20 scouts initially, it now employs [57](#) people trained as patrollers in forest protection, the monitoring of wildlife, and the use of smartphones for mapping. Today, patrols protect [37 large mammal species](#), including the endangered elephant, the wild dog, the lion and the leopard, and 255 species of birds, including the endangered lappet-faced vulture and two endemic bird species, according to a scientific study conducted in [2019](#). The project has also maintained and revived the hunting traditions of the Hadza people.

An example of successful carbon offsetting

Each year, the project prevents the felling of [171,100 trees](#) and the emission of [177,284 tCO₂e](#). These avoided emissions are quantified, certified as carbon credits, and then sold on the voluntary carbon market. After expansion of the project, at least 60% of the revenue from the sale of credits was given directly to the communities. The remainder covers the project follow-up and overheads. According to estimates, the project in its current phase

is expected to return [\\$450,000 per year](#) to the local population. At present, the compensation company [MyClimate](#) is the main buyer of project credits.

Social and economic benefits for Indigenous communities

Until recently, the Hadza were marginalised in Tanzania. Revenues from the project made it possible to provide basic services to the [61,000 members](#) of the community: health care, children's education, food security, and [straightforward, sustainable jobs](#) as community guards. For example, the project has bolstered their legal rights to their land and natural resources. The monthly payments to the community stimulate forest monitoring and protection. The project is helping to [reduce](#) gender inequalities: the women are employed as project leaders and are encouraged to participate in community meetings and to give their opinion on the management of the revenues. These revenues are used to [ensure](#) the primary and secondary education of more than 20 children and to [finance](#) the introduction of outreach clinics once per semester in the region.