

W+ Verification Report

Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project
Wildlife Works, LLC
Taita Taveta County, Coast Province, Kenya

VERIFICATION REPORT

The Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project

Measuring the increase in Time, Health, Income & Assets and Knowledge & Education

Document prepared by Liz Allen, Lisa McMullan and Faith Muniale - Social Audit Network

Project Title	The Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project
Project Start & End Dates	1 January 2010 - (Expected to be) 31 December 2034
W+ Verification Project Period	25 September 2020 to 26 September 2022
Verification Report number	Report 1.0
Project ID	12-2022
Project Developer	Wildlife Works Carbon LLC

Report Title	Kasigau Corridor W+ Verification Report
Client	Wildlife Works Carbon LLC
Units Generated	80,536 Time units generated 1,709 Income and Assets units generated 1,883 Income & Assets generated 698 Knowledge & Education units generated 84,826 Total W+ units generated
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Table of contents

Summary 4
1. Introduction 7
1.1 Objective 7
1.2 Scope and Criteria 7
1.3 Level of Assurance 8
1.4 Project Monitoring & Evaluation Report Summary 9
2. Verification Process 11
2.1 Method and Criteria 11
2.2 Document Review 11
2.3 Interviews & Consultation 12
2.4 Site Inspections 14
2.5 Resolution of Findings 14
2.6 Forward Action Requests 14
3 Validation Findings 15
3.1 Project Description Deviations 15
3.2 Project eligibility of any new activities initiated during monitoring period 15
3.3 Method Deviations 15
4 Verification Findings 15
4.1 Project Implementation Status 15
4.2 Accuracy of Calculations of Women's Empowerment Benefits 15
4.3 Quality of Evidence to Determine Women's Empowerment Benefits 17
5 W+ Results 18
5.1 W+ Domains 18
6. Analysis of W+ Results 24
6.1 Current Performance 24
6.2 Non-Permanence Risk Analysis 25
7 Verification (Audit) Conclusion 26
W+ Verification – Statement of Assurance 27
Appendix A: Verification consultations schedule 28
Appendix B: Findings from verification consultations 29
Appendix C: Onsite Stakeholders Consulted 38
Appendix D: Photographs from Verification Consultations 39

Summary

The intention of the audit process was to verify the outcomes derived from the implementation of the W+ Time method, Health method, Income and Assets method and the Knowledge and Education method through projects delivered by Wildlife Works Carbon (WWC) through its Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project (KCRP) from 25 September 2020 to 26 September 2022.

The verification activity included in this report took place in June 2023 and included a four-day site visit to the project area. It was undertaken by two SAN verifiers, Liz Allen and Faith Muniale through calls with the project developer, visits to the WWC projects, visits to other WWC stakeholder partners, and a review of project monitoring documents. The verifiers met with the project leads and with many women participating in Wildlife Works projects.

The purpose of the verification activity was to establish if the presence of and participation in the Wildlife Works Carbon REDD Project activities has led to an improvement in the position and condition of women in the community as measured against 4 domain areas:

- Time
- Health
- Income and Assets
- Knowledge and Education

The verification also sought to validate the W+ units created by this activity across each of the domains.
The monitoring period considered in the verification was 25 September 2020 - 26 September 2022.

A combination of methods was adopted in undertaking the verification including:

- Interviews and discussions with Project Developer team
- Site visits to the project area and project activities
- Focus group discussions with women's groups
- Meeting with Branch Manager and Technical Officer, Tavevo Water and Sewerage Company Ltd.
- Meetings with Community Health Volunteers and Medical Officers, Marungu Health Center
- Meeting with Youth, Sports, Gender and Social Services office

In addition, the verification team reviewed the following supporting documents:

- W+ Project Idea Note (PIN)
- W+ Project Design Document (PDD)
- W+ Monitoring Report compiled by Barun Gurung on the 23 March 2023

From the evidence presented, the verification team are confident that 30,420[1] women have benefitted from WWC KCRP activities and felt that significant improvements had been made in the lives of the women participants in terms of W+ Time, Health, Income and Assets and Knowledge and Education domains.

The project activities visited were:

Itinyi Community – the focus in this project is on the provision of accessible water points in homes and the community to reduce the time and effort required to access clean water.

Rukanga Community Water Project – again the focus is upon access to clean water, specifically extending the pipework network to allow for more water access points closer to communities.

Marungu Community – the focus in this area is around health and wellbeing, providing services that address improvements in reproductive and sexual health.

The following groups focus upon the production and sale of handicraft items through the Hadithi community-based organisation.

- **Bidii Womens Group** – this project is focused upon basket weaving and liquid soap production.
- **Eco Factory Group** – the factory has 45 female employees engaged in the production of clothing.
- **Jitahidi Kasigau Group** – the focus of this project is on table banking, basket weaving, soap making, and the women are also interested in pastry and bakery.

[1] Total women beneficiaries = 27,771 Time + 1,068 Health + 1,506 Income & Assets + 75 Education & Training = 30,420

- **Lusario Widow Group** - this project is focused on agricultural production e.g. kales, spinach, tomatoes, and other local vegetables with close supervision from the Wildlife Works greenhouse department. The money received is shared to members where 10% remains in the account as savings.

- **Bungule Womens Group** – this project is focused upon basket weaving, liquid soap production and organic farming.

- **Neema Womens Group** – this project is focused upon table banking, basket weaving, paper production, and kitchen gardening.

- **Bugata Disabled Community** – this community of people with disabilities are engaged in the production of soft toys, baskets, re-useable sanitary towels and leatherwork.

- **Sechu Women Group** - the focus of this project is on soap making, growing different kinds of vegetables using kitchen gardens and table banking.

Participants from all projects reported improvements across a range of indicators including disposable time, confidence, levels of income, skills and knowledge.

Their testimony evidences positive change from the way the women were living previously and as such the verification team certifies these activities as having made meaningful change to the position and condition of women in these communities, with a reasonable level of assurance and recommend their continuation.

The total number of 84,826 W+ units generated by the projects:

Domain	***Number of Units generated***
Time	*80,536*
Health	*1,709*
Income & Assets	*1,883*
Education & Training	*698*
Total	*84,826*

1. Introduction

1.1 Objective

The intention of the audit process was to verify the outcomes derived from the implementation of the W+ Time, Health, Income and Assets, and Knowledge and Education methods through the Wildlife Works Carbon LLC Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project (KCRP) projects in Taita Taveta County, Coast Province, Kenya. The verification activity included in this report took place over four days 6-9 June 2023.

1.2 Scope and Criteria

The scope of the audit included the W+ Time, Health, Income and Assets and Knowledge and Education domains and considered the following indicators as evidence of successful implementation:

- An increase in time savings that is significant to allocate to other activities.
- Quality use of time saved, travel time saved that can be spent in helping children with their studies, undertaking income generating activities, participating in social and recreational activities.
- Improved sexual and reproductive health as well as enhanced family planning knowledge with large proportion of beneficiaries having access to health services.
- Large proportion of beneficiaries with access to essential medicines for STIs.
- Large proportion of beneficiaries report support from their partners to access health services.
- Large proportion of women are accompanied by their male partners in accessing health services.
- A large proportion of women perceive that their income and savings have increased.
- Handicrafts sales provided opportunities for women to generate additional income and assets.
- Increased decision making by women over purchase of household and other large item purchases.
- Men assuming larger role / responsibilities in ‘care’ work within households.
- A large proportion of beneficiaries can explain with high level of confidence the eco farming practices, eco charcoal production, tailoring techniques, and greenhouse technologies.
- Beneficiaries can explain the benefits of applying the new skills they have gained.
- Women make independent decisions over household and other large item purchases.

Additionally, Do No Harm indicators were sought to evidence that:

- Women beneficiaries reported that they did not face any time or opportunity constraints in benefiting from the water project.
- Women participating in project did not face emotional or physical violence from their male partners / husbands.
- Women participating in project did not have to invest their own resources to participate in the project.
- Participation in training does not lead to loss of other opportunities because of time investment.

1.3 Level of Assurance

The following table summarises the level of assurance of the findings from this verification:

W+ Domain	Desired Outcome
Time	Time savings
	Quality use of time saved is significant
Health	Improved sexual and reproductive health, as well as enhanced family planning knowledge
	Men (husbands) support their partners to access family planning knowledge / information / services
	Women demonstrate confidence in accessing family planning and STI information/ services
Income & Assets	Increased incomes
	Increased assets
	Increased decision making by women; Men supporting women
Knowledge & Education	Increased knowledge and skills
	Application of acquired knowledge and skills acquired
	Increased decision making

The stakeholder engagement and verification consultation process evidence the descriptors outlined above.

This is coupled with statistical analysis of numeric data gathered from stakeholder questionnaires undertaken by the project monitoring team that also evidence increases across each of the domains.

The level of assurance gained is in light of the project durations to date and the opportunity to improve control over decision making through the development of the women's roles in their communities. There is a clear improvement from the baseline of time spent collecting water and the limited time available for alternative activities, poor levels of health and wellbeing, limited income and assets, and low levels of knowledge and education.

These improvements justify a 'reasonable assurance' level across all domains.

1.4 Project Monitoring & Evaluation Report Summary

Wildlife Works Carbon commissioned the WOCAN W+ team to apply the W+ Standard over four domains (Time, Health, Income & Assets and Knowledge & Education) to measure the impacts from the project's activities to women and their communities through increased discretionary time, improved health, increased incomes and improved agribusiness skills.

The following summarises the impacts in the four domains and numbers of W+ credits generated presented in the Monitoring Report:

Time domain

The W+ Time Domain was applied to measure the time savings in 27,771 women's lives as a result of access to water.

- The average time savings for an individual project beneficiary is 100 minutes per day.
- This amounts to a 29% change from baseline conditions
- **The number of W+ Time units generated is 80,536.**

Health domain

The W+ Health Domain was applied to measure the changes to 1,068 women's health status.

- The change in health status of beneficiaries from baseline conditions is 16%
- **The number of W+ Health units generated is 1,709.**

Income & Assets domain

The W+ Income & Assets Domain was applied to measure the changes in 1,506 women's income and assets.

- The change in **income** for Hadithi beneficiaries is 186 Kenyan shillings per individual. This amounts to a change of 5 % from baseline conditions.
- The total change in **savings** is 152 shillings which gives a change of 20% from baseline conditions.

- The percentage of change from baseline conditions in income and savings is 12.5%.
- **The total number of W+ Income & Assets units generated is 1,883.**

Education & Knowledge Domain

The W+ Education & Knowledge Domain was applied to measure the ability of 75 female beneficiaries to recall and apply knowledge and skills.

- The change in Education & Knowledge from baseline conditions is 93%.
- **The total number of W+ Education & Knowledge units generated is 698.**

These outcomes were achieved through activities designed to:

- Improve supply of and access to water by providing water storage tanks, water collection points and improving water catchments, thereby reducing the time required for women to fetch clean water for drinking and other purposes.
- Provide health education and services to women in their communities, to improve understanding and access to services and overall health.
- Support the production and sale of handicrafts by providing training and access to markets to women's craft groups (Hadithi), enabling them to generate income.
- Provide opportunities for training and employment in areas including eco-farming, soap making and tailoring, to build skills and enhance agricultural production and income.

The application of the four domain areas shows that there is a positive achievement for 30,420 women, the number of women beneficiaries that have benefitted from the Wildlife Works Carbon LLC Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project (KCRP) projects in Kenya during this reporting period.

2. Verification Process

2.1 Method and Criteria

This verification report has considered four W+ domains, Time, Health, Income & Assets, and Knowledge & Education. Monitoring data has been gathered from field research and this data has been verified using three approaches.

- Examination of the data gathered and presented in the Monitoring Report and consideration of its accuracy and consideration of the four domain methods.
- On-site observations of the project facilities, infrastructure and activities.
- Interviews and group discussions to:
  - Verify the presence of the projects and their activities.
  - Gain an understanding of the level and nature of the impact on women who have participated in the projects.
  - Gain perspectives of the level and nature of impact from other stakeholders including the Water and Sewerage Service, Community Health Volunteers, Medical professionals and Social Services public departments.
  - Appreciate the Project Developer's view of the purpose and processes of the implementing of the activities.

2.2 Document Review

The following method documents were reviewed to complete the verification of the Time, Health, Income & Assets and Education & Knowledge domain results for the WCC KCRP:

- W+ Project Idea Note (PIN)
- W+ Project Design Document (PDD)
- W+ Monitoring Report, 23 March 2023, including formula calculation for the statistical analysis of surveys undertaken.

Each document was crosschecked against the others and with the findings from the interviews and stakeholder consultation to ensure consistency and accuracy. This was done following the interviews and these adequately reinforced the findings presented.

The findings from consultation activities informed the score applied to the project's outcomes and its assurance level of +3.

2.3 Interviews & Consultation

An initial verification interview took place with the Project Developer on the 31st May 2023 followed by a 4-day verification visit to the project area from the 6th – 9th June 2023. A detailed schedule of verification consultation activities is presented in Appendix A; details of stakeholders consulted in Appendix C; findings from the consultation in Appendix C; and photographs taking during the consultation in Appendix D.

The discussions and visits were intended to verify the details presented in the Monitoring Report 23 March 2023.

The discussions were facilitated by Dr Faith Muniale, an experienced community facilitator. The discussions were structured around a series of questions devised by the verification team in order to elicit responses that could prove/disprove the details of the Monitoring Report. The questions listed below were arranged as higher level and supplementary questions and acted as a guide rather than being prescriptive, to ensure flexibility and for the facilitator to gain insights into the reported experiences of the women.

Higher Level Questions

Confirmation that collecting water takes less time.

- What has changed? What do women do differently on a day-to-day basis since being able to access water from new sources / schemes?
- Provide specific examples of how time is being used.

Confirmation that women are accessing health services.

- Do the women feel healthier since accessing health services?
- Has this enabled them to do anything different?
- Gain a sense of whether partners and families are supportive of the women accessing these services? Have they noticed any differences? Invite women to share specific examples.

Confirmation that women have increased income.

- What has changed? Do women have increased levels of income?
- What has that additional income enabled the women to do that they weren't doing before?
- Has it enabled them to buy any assets? Invite women to share specific examples.
- Since gaining any additional income, do the women think (have they noticed) they are treated differently? In what way?

Confirmation that women have participated in activities to build knowledge and skills.

- Invite women to share examples of training / study visits etc. undertaken.
- What new information or knowledge did they gain from participating in activities?
- What do the women do differently, are there any changes to the way they farm?

Supplementary Questions

- Did you have to sell household assets in order to pay for water installation, operation or maintenance?
- Do you feel that your views are taken into consideration more?
- Have you got greater influence over household / community decisions?
- Since gaining new information / knowledge have you been taking more decisions? Or, are you a bigger part of the discussions / decision making processes?
- Did the project cause any conflict between you and your partner?
- Did the project cause you to sell your assets to participate in the project?
- Did the time you invested in the training program lead to loss of other potential opportunities that you could have accessed during the same time?
- Any negative impact of participating in these activities?

From these conversations it was clear that:

- The increase in time savings is significant for women to allocate to other activities.
- The quality use of time saved is significant, enabling women to undertake a range of activities including household tasks, spending time with their children, tending their garden kitchens and farms, participate in community discussions and dialogues.
- There has been an improvement in sexual and reproductive health, as well as enhanced family planning knowledge with an improvement in overall health and reduction in severe cases of child ill health.
- Men (husbands / partners) are supportive of their partners accessing family planning knowledge / information / services, with many men also reported to be engaging in men-only health dialogues.
- Women have demonstrated and report increased confidence in accessing family planning and STI information/ services, with regular attendance at clinics and improved levels of medication taken reported.
- A large proportion of women have increased their levels of income and savings, with women reporting an associated increase in their level of decision-making regarding household expenditure including supporting their children with resources for school.

- Women reported having been able to increase their assets, including purchasing household furniture and appliances, land and houses.
- There has been a significant increase in knowledge and skills for those women participating in both Hadithi and education & knowledge activities.
- Women are applying their acquired knowledge and skills in their own households through for example kitchen gardens, supporting neighbours and other community members to improve their practices and securing work with other employers.
- Women have greater participation in decision making at a number of levels, including household expenditure and community discussions.

The detailed findings from the verification consultation activities undertaken are presented in Appendix B.

2.4 Site Inspections

An extensive set of site inspections has taken place – see the W+ verification schedule attached in Appendix A.

2.5 Resolution of Findings

There were no corrective actions or significant clarifications required during the verification process.

2.6 Forward Action Requests

Ongoing delivery of the projects' referred to above will enable more women to improve their condition and position in terms of W+ Time, Health, Income and assets and Education and Training domains.

The benefits, positive outcomes and longer-term impacts at a community level have also been noted and the WWC is invited to consider including the Leadership domain in future W+ projects given the increased representation of women in household and community decision making described during the verification consultation activities.

3 Validation Findings

3.1 Project Description Deviations

There are no deviations from the project description.

3.2 Project eligibility of any new activities initiated during monitoring period

The project meets the eligibility criteria for consideration under the W+ Standard. The verification team has explored the methods (Time, Health, Income & Assets and Knowledge & Education) and after checking the method document to this data and wider consultation, it can confidently state that the activities and methods implemented meet the stated purpose of the project described, and that they have been effectively applied and verified.

3.3 Method Deviations

There are no method deviations identified or applied to this programme.

4 Verification Findings

4.1 Project Implementation Status

The project has been implemented in line with the project description. The project has been monitored effectively using appropriate sampling techniques, individual surveys and site visits. There are no material discrepancies between the actual monitoring system and the monitoring plan set out in the project description and the applied W+ methods. The verification team can confidently confirm that the project has been implemented as described in the project description. (Detailed findings from verification consultation in Appendix B)

4.2 Accuracy of Calculations of Women's Empowerment Benefits

Process for calculating the number of W+ units

1) Measurement of results: The formula of each domain is applied two times: at the time of the baseline survey, and again at the time of the monitoring survey (determined by the schedule established in the Project Design Document (PDD). The difference between the two numbers is the quantified result that is used to determine the number of W+ units generated.

2) Calculation of the percentage of change= [$\frac{\text{Result} - \text{Baseline}}{\text{Baseline}}$] x 100

3) Calculation of the number of W+ units
1 unit = 10 % improvement in one woman's life, in relation to one domain over the monitoring period.

Total number of units= percentage of change x number of woman beneficiaries

As described in the Monitoring Report, 23 March 2023, data has been checked, no manual transposition errors have been identified and all calculations are good.

The calculation of the units has been completed using the original arithmetic methods identifying change from the baseline and the percentage change of the participant group against a control group.

The values applied are real values taken from the survey data and from market values and the verification team is confident that the women's empowerment benefits have been quantified correctly in accordance with the project description and applied W+ method(s).

W+ Units Generated:
Total number of 84,826 W+ units generated by the programme of activity.

Domain	Number of Units generated
Time	80,536
Health	1,709
Income & Assets	1,883
Education & Training	698
Total	84,826

4.3 Quality of Evidence to Determine Women's Empowerment Benefits

The evidence used to determine the women's empowerment benefits are:

- The Monitoring Report, 23 March 2023 including the explanation of data flows from data generation to data aggregation and unit calculation.
- Interviews and discussions with women participating in WWC KCRP activities.
- Interviews with the Project Developer.
- The quality of the information gathered in the Monitoring Report is excellent overall and was obtained using a professional researcher/enumerator. As such the information is comprehensive and reliable.
- The process of converting data from written to electronic formats is considered to be accurate and the information deduced from the data set is considered to be comprehensive and reliable.
- The information gathered from the discussions and interviews is considered to be excellent in its reliability and rigour as it is source data from the women beneficiaries and other stakeholders. An expert facilitated the conversations, who has considerable experience in ethnographic research techniques.

  Overall, the quality and quantity of evidence is considered to be appropriate and comprehensive, ensuring the voice of the person served is heard and that the data set gained during monitoring activity reflects the findings from stakeholders.

5 W+ Results

5.1W+ Domains

Method (W+ Domain)	***Time***
Outcomes	*Time savings* *Quality use of time savings*
Indicators	*The increase in time savings is significant to allocate to other activities.* *Travel time saved that can be spent in helping children with their studies, undertaking income generating activities, participating in social and recreational activities.*
Situation	*A high percentage change in time saved was evidenced, the equivalent of an average of 100 minutes per day, a 29% change.*
Justification	*The women consulted reported significant amount of time has been saved and meaningful use of their time savings.* • *The increase in time savings is on average 100 minutes per day with some women reporting that a single water collection could take up to 6 hours.* • *The quality use of time saved is significant, enabling women to undertake a range of activities including household tasks, spending time with their children, tending their garden kitchens and farms, participate in community discussions and dialogues.* *As a result, it is considered that this outcome has been evidenced and the circumstances of the women has become very much better and is scored as +3.*
Evidence	*Monitoring report* *Interviews and discussions with women* *Interviews with other stakeholders (Tavevo Water and Sewerage Company Ltd.)* *Interview with Project Developer*

Method (W+ Domain)	***Health***
Outcomes	*Improved sexual and reproductive health, as well as enhanced family planning knowledge* *Men (husbands) support their partners to access family planning knowledge / information/services* *Women demonstrate confidence in accessing family planning and STI information/ services*
Indicators	*Large proportion of beneficiaries have access to health services.* *Large proportion of beneficiaries have access to essential medicines for STIs.* *Large proportion of beneficiaries report support from their partners to access health services.* *Large proportion of women are accompanied by their male partners in accessing health services.*
Situation	*The women consulted reported improved health and wellbeing.*
Justification	*During the verification it was evident that the findings of the evaluation team were thorough and comprehensive.* *There has been an improvement in sexual and reproductive health, as well as enhanced family planning knowledge with an improvement in overall health and reduction in severe cases of child ill health reported.* *Men (husbands / partners) are supportive of their partners accessing family planning knowledge / information / services, with many men also reported to be engaging in men-only health dialogues.* *Women have demonstrated and report increased confidence in accessing family planning and STI information/ services, with regular attendance at clinics. Whilst this outcome of increased confidence has been reported it this does not equate to the achievement of the specified indicator of male partners accompanying women to health services. Rather clinics and dialogues take place separately for men and women, and with increased information and awareness male partners are showing increased levels of*

	~~*support for their wives and partners.*~~ *As a result, it is considered that this outcome has been evidenced and the circumstances of the women has become very much better and is scored as +3.*
Evidence	*Monitoring report* *Interviews and discussions with women* *Interviews with other stakeholders, Community Health Volunteers and Medical Officers at Marungu Health Center* *Interviews and discussions with Project Developer*

Method (W+ Domain)	***Income and Assets***
Outcomes	*Increased incomes* *Increased assets* *Increased decision making by women* *Men supporting women*
Indicators	*Large proportion of women perceived that their income and savings have increased.* *Handicrafts sales provided opportunities for women to generate additional income and assets.* *Increased decision making by women over purchase of household and other large item purchases* *Men assuming larger role / responsibilities in 'care' work within households*
Situation	*High levels of women participating in Hadithi craft groups reported a significant increase in their income, assets and decision making.*
Justification	*During the verification it was evident that the findings of the evaluation team were thorough and comprehensive.* *The women consulted during verification activities reported increased income, increased opportunities and greater involvement in household and community decision making.* *A large proportion of women have increased their levels of income and savings, with women reporting an associated increase in their level of decision-making regarding household expenditure including supporting their children with resources for school.* *Women reported having been able to increase their assets, including purchasing household furniture and appliances, land and houses.* *As a result, it is considered that this outcome has been evidenced and the circumstances of the women has become very much better and is scored as +3.*

Evidence	*Monitoring report* *Interviews and discussions with women* *Meetings with other stakeholders, Youth Sports Gender and Social Services Office* *Interviews and discussions with Project Developer team*

Method (W+ Domain)	***Knowledge & Education***
Outcomes	*Increased knowledge and skills* *Application of acquired knowledge and skills acquired* *Increased decision making*
Indicators	*A large proportion of beneficiaries can explain with high level of confidence the eco farming practices, eco charcoal production, tailoring techniques and green house technologies.* *Beneficiaries can explain the benefits of applying the new skills they have gained.* *Women make independent decisions over household and other large item purchases.*
Situation	*A very high percentage change in Knowledge gained and applied was evidenced with significant increases in confidence, application of knowledge and independent decision making, as well as sharing of knowledge.*
Justification	*There has been a significant increase in knowledge and skills for those women participating in education & knowledge activities.* *Women are applying their acquired knowledge and skills in their own households through for example kitchen gardens, supporting neighbours and other community members to improve their practices and securing work with other employers.* *Women have greater participation in decision making at a number of levels, including household expenditure and community discussions.* *As a result, it is considered that this outcome has been evidenced and the circumstances of the women has become very much better and is scored as +3.*

Evidence	*Monitoring report* *Interviews and discussions with women, Eco Factory employees* *Interviews and discussions with Project Developer team*

5.2 Direct Payment Mechanism

The verifiers are aware that some women beneficiaries participate in community-based systems of savings and loans for women that could be used for the benefit-sharing mechanism required for the W+ Standard. The example identified during the verification consultation activities is Table banking: a group-based funding strategy in which members form groups where they can save and borrow money immediately during meeting times. Members of a table- banking group save money each time they meet from which they can take either short- or long-term loans. Alternative mechanisms may also be available and appropriate.

As yet there have been no sale of units and so no direct payments to the communities.

6. Analysis of W+ Results

6.1 Current Performance

This verification focused upon four domains, Time, Health, Income & Assets and Education & Knowledge. That is not to say that the project has not had positive effects upon other domains (Leadership and Food Security) but merely that these have not been subject to verification.

Time – average score +3
Health – average score +3
Income & Assets – average score +3
Knowledge & Education – average score +3
Overall project score - +3

The scores reflect consideration of all of the evidence provided to the verification team coupled with findings from the interviews and feedback. The project is performing well, and the Project Developer recognises that there is scope to do more.

W+ Domain	**Desired Outcome**	Very Much Worse (-3)	Much Worse (-2)	Some-what Worse (-1)	No Change (0)	Some-what Better (+1)	Much Better (+2)	Very Much Better (+3)
Time	Time savings							X
	Quality use of time saved is significant							X
Health	Improved sexual and reproductive health, as well as enhanced family planning knowledge							X
	Men (husbands) support their partners to access family planning knowledge / information / services							X
	Women demonstrate confidence in accessing family planning and STI information/ services							X
Income & Assets	Increased incomes							X
	Increased assets							X
	Increased decision making by women; Men supporting women							X
Knowledge & Education	Increased knowledge and skills							X
	Application of acquired knowledge and skills acquired							X
	Increased decision making							X

6.2 Non-Permanence Risk Analysis

The verification team do not see any non-continuity risks at this time. The range of projects are meeting the needs of the women participating in the activity and benefitting the wider community. It is the view of the verification team that continuation and development of this activity can only be positive for the women and the communities of the region and we note that the expected end date of the project activities extends to 31 December 2034.

7 Verification (Audit) Conclusion

The project complies with the verification criteria for projects and their women's empowerment benefits as set out in W+ Standard and Program Guide. The verification team can confirm that the project has been implemented in accordance with the project description. The total number of W+ units achieved by the project during the verification period is 84,826. The project complies with the verification criteria for projects set out in the W+ Standard.

Net women's empowerment benefits	**W+ Units generated Verification Period 1**
Increased available time to use in a meaningful way with family, income generating activity, social and community activity.	80,536 Time units
Improved health, particularly sexual and reproductive health and enhanced family planning knowledge; Men supporting partners to access family planning knowledge, information & services; Increased levels of confidence amongst women in accessing health services	1,709 Health units
Increased Income & Assets Increased decision making by women	1,883 Income & Assets units
Increased knowledge & skills; Application of acquired knowledge and skills; Increased decision making	698 Knowledge & Education units
Total	84,826 W+ units

W+ Verification – Statement of Assurance

When undertaking a verification of a W+ project our verification team have sought evidence of material change in the position and condition of the women participating in the project.

The change that the project is seeking to make in the lives of the women participants was explicit in the project documentation and referenced in the Monitoring Document – these stated changes were then the focus of the verification activity.

Specifically, the team looked for positive and negative change in:

- the recognition and regard to women in the community
- their living experience which may be seen across one or more domains, specifically:
    - Time savings
    - Income & Assets
    - Health
    - Education & Knowledge

The extent of the change identified, and its likely permanence has determined the assurance level given. The Wildlife Works Carbon LLC Kasigau Corridor REDD Project is given reasonable assurance.

Signed, 6th July 2023
Liz Allen, SAN

Reviewed and agreed with Project Developer,

Lisa McMullan, SAN, 10th July 2023

{NAME}, Wildlife Works Carbon LLC

Appendix A: Verification consultations schedule

Date	31/05/2023	05/06/2023	06/06/2023	07/06/2023	08/06/2023	09/06/2023
Day	**Wednesday**	**Monday**	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**	**Friday**
Morning	**Initiation meeting**: SAN Verification consultation team Liz Allen & Faith Muniale to meet with key WWC project representatives: lizallen@theconnectives.com fngugi2001@gmail.com (Nick, Edward, Cara, Geoff, Lenjo, Mwakima, George)		Meet with **45 x women** who have benefited from project activities: i. Meet 15 Hadithi Women at WW HQ (Lore/ Cara) Successfully met and all my questions answered – bidii women group ii. Meet 10 women benefitting from water project activities (Defence/Cara/Lenjo) Successfully met and all my questions answered -Itinyi community iii. Meet 10 women accessing health information & services (Defence/Cara/Lenjo) Successfully met and all my questions answered – Marungu community iv. Meet 10 women who have participated in training (Defence/Cara/Lenjo) Successfully met and all my questions answered – Itinyi people living with disability NB: ii to iv above can meet at Marungu social hall. (Lenjo& Defence to organize transport) Each group met independently	Meet **3 x community health volunteers** (1 in each village visited) • Meet 3 CHVs from different areas (Sasenyi, Kale and Itinyi) at Marungu dispensary (Action Defence Mwalume) Successfully met and all my questions answered Meet **1 x health professional** at a **local health centre** • Meet a health professional at Marungu dispensary (Defence Mwalume) Successfully met CO in charge, senior nurse, and community health assistant who has been a main trainer and community dialogue facilitator; all my questions answered	Visit to **3 x villages** • Visit 3 villages in Marungu and Kasigau: Mwachabo village (Monica), Kibaoni and Jora (Defence to provide contacts) Meet with **3 x beneficiaries who have applied learning**; visit sites of application of learning • 3 members of Bungule women group Successfully met and all my questions answered - Bungule women group – green house - Buguta disabled group - Neema women group	Onsite meeting with key project staff, to review onsite visit activities; clarify any outstanding queries; identify additional consultation required at this stage. (Nick, Key project staff) Debriefing with the Team (Nick, Cara, Geoff and Lenjo), and Liz joined virtually
		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
Afternoon		• Verifiers Travel to project site, Check in Kivuli Camp (Cara)	Visit **1 x water scheme (complete / end to end)** • Makwasinyi water project and 3 representatives of water committee (Lenjo to provide contact). Successfully met and all my questions answered – Rukanga water committee Also visited rock catchment water system – Kulkila rock catchment	Visit **training centre** and meet with **2 x training tutors / facilitators** • Arrange a meeting with health tutors from Maungu/Voi at Marungu Social Hall (Defence Mwalume) NB: These are typically one-off trainings, and we don't have a "permanent" training site. Trainers are also engaged temporarily. Also met women from the EPZ eco factory staff	Other stakeholder consultation: • Rural Water Services Officer-TAVEVO Official Maungu (Lenjo/Mwakima to provide transport) Tavevo technical officer Successfully met and all my questions answered	Other stakeholder consultation: • Social Services Officer (Lenjo/Mwakima to provide contact) • Verifier Travel back to Nairobi (Edward/Ndau) Social Services officer Successfully met and all my questions answered

Appendix B: Findings from verification consultations

Time / Water

***Itinyi community*:**
Before the water project, the women used to spend one and half hours to go to the water point (about 5 to 6 Km away) collect 20 litres jerrican of water (at Ksh.10) and return home. Most of the people in this community live on hill slopes, so it was a significant task to carry water uphill which limited the amount of water they could access per day.

In 2020, the community water project supported by WWC was commissioned. Now most of the households have water connected with a stand tap outside the house. The households not yet connected buy from the neighbours. They spend the same money or slightly less (some neighbours sell at Ksh.10 while some sell at Ksh.5 per jerrican) but they don't have to walk a long distance down and up the hill to collect the water.

With water available, the women said they now take a shower every day. Previously they could only shower after three or four days (twice a week). Now they clean their clothes as needed. Previously this was very limited, and they would wear same dirty clothes for many days, would use bed sheets for about a month before cleaning them. They feel and look cleaner, the sanitation situation for the women has improved and is now bearable.

To increase the amount of water they collect in one trip (before the water project), a household would take children to fetch water, to have as many jerricans as possible per trip. At times, children collected water rather than go to
school. The women would send the children to go and queue while the woman tried to do household chores with the time available. As a result, at times there was scrambling at the water queues, and children were involved in conflicts many times. With the provision of convenient and accessible stand taps these situations no longer occur and there are no conflicts among the children at the queue.

The households that have livestock would previously spend about Ksh.3000 per month buying water for domestic and livestock use. Now, such households that are connected spend Ksh.400 the flat rate charged on water per month. Before the WWC project, livestock watering was limited, due to the cost and distance, now women reported that livestock accesses unlimited water, and they are healthier and more productive.

Households now have kitchen gardens since there is water available, so they have cut cost of buying vegetables.

Women with young children had to find someone to take care of them while they would go to fetch water, this would mostly be neighbours, and sometimes there was no one available to help meaning that they could not go for water, or they would have to pay someone with a bicycle to collect the water for them. This would cost double the amount for the same water.

A young woman in that community had developed a back problem because of carrying water uphill every day, now that problem is no more.

The community also commented that WWC deliver the projects thoroughly, and the water project has been running well without any major maintenance challenges.

With the extra time now,

- women are taking care of their farms consistently,
- they are now able to attend community meetings that they previously could not participate in,
- children sometimes missed school to go fetch water, now they attend school regularly.
- some women are now available to take on casual jobs.
- have time for community service e.g., one woman who takes care of orphaned and vulnerable children has more time for that now.

***Rukanga Community Water Project*:**

The community had only one water point before the project. It was a big challenge because the population is large and distances are lengthy. The project increased water points by repairing and extending water pipes, this reduced the queues at the water point, reduced the distances covered by women to the water point, and the time they spent on water fetching reduced.

The women are now available to take care of their farms and households and attend community/social activities.

The project water is Ksh.2 per jerrican, but when there is not enough available (especially when it is dry season the water quantity goes down), they buy from water vendors at Ksh.30 per jerrican. This is expensive so the water project has saved money for the women and their households.

The water scheme is managed by a committee and women are among the committee members. All the water points are managed by women. These has given them an opportunity to lead, and the women feel good about it.

Cleanliness and hygiene have improved. Women said that at times children would wet their beds and go to school without bathing because of water shortage but that is no more.

Tavevo Water and Sewerage Company Ltd:

A discussion with the acting branch manager and technical officer revealed the value of the work done by Wildlife Works to increase water services provision to the community. The company is mandated to supply and manage water services for the residents of the county. However, they have limited coverage and serve only a few people because of lack of water distribution infrastructure.

WWC has supported their work by building water infrastructure and increasing the number of people reached by piped water services, that is at household level or at a nearby water point. The coverage has now grown from 30% in 2012 to 80% currently.

This means access by the people has increased and the cost of getting that water has also reduced.

Whenever WWC supports a water project (they have a community mechanism for deciding which project to be implemented where and when, through the local carbon committees), they work together with Tavevo as a source of technical advice for the water system designs and supervision of the physical works.

Health

Marungu Community Women

The women confirmed access to health services. They have been trained by community health volunteers and community health assistants in family planning, caring for people with HIV, and child management and health. Trainings have been extended to husbands.

Services are available at health centres and the program has mobile clinic (the backpack nurse) who visits communities.

Women feel empowered and have spaced their children birth comfortably. They feel healthier unlike before when they bore children every year, leaving them with little or no time to take care of themselves. Previously young women would get depressed because of so much pressure from the continuous childbearing and child management tasks.

They feel organized and are able to take care of the children better including in terms of health management of the young children because they have been trained in the services, they can access at the health centres such as vaccines, vitamins, weight monitoring etc.

Women with HIV now know how to protect the newborn babies so that they don't contract the virus. They are trained and given the service at the health centres. They attend community meetings now and feel worthy enough to participate in community activities.

The women's husbands were not always supportive of them accessing health services, but through trainings and discussions in men only dialogues, they have changed their attitude and are now supportive of the women using family planning services.

Community Health Volunteers (CHV):
Confirmed that women access health services. They have seen the communities evolve and embrace health services. Women used to deliver children at home with the aid of traditional birth attendants. Now they go to the health centres and access health services. They have embraced family planning and their husbands are supportive too. The program has sensitized them to the benefits of accessing health services. For example, pregnant women did not go pre and postnatal clinics, but now they do. Some would attend irregularly and were not keen to take the supplements. After participating in training and dialogue sessions the women attend available clinics and take the supplements they need.

Maternal and child death rate has reduced dramatically. CHVs have observed that since the women embraced family planning, the children are healthier, kwashiorkor cases have gone down completely, children are dewormed.

When children are healthy, the women have peace and can concentrate on productive activities e.g., small businesses like vending vegetables, kitchen gardening, basket weaving.

***Medical Officers*:** Clinical officer in charge of Marungu Health Center, the Chief Nurse, and the Community Health Assistant.

The Medical officers report that they have observed positive changes with the numbers of Family Planning Services clients. The women have embraced the offer and access services regularly. Where there is high demand for services, they work with the community health assistant and CHVs to address any gaps.

Previously there were around 20 new prenatal cases per month, now it is an average of three. This is the effect of family planning services.

Severe cases of child ill health have decreased dramatically, this is attributed to healthy mothers that in turn give birth to healthier children and they are able to take care of the children better and can breast feed the children for long enough because they have delayed the next pregnancy.

Income and Assets

Bidii Women's Group (started in 2018, has 22 members):
The group is among the 64[2] groups in the landscape that are part of the Hadithi crafts community-based organization.

[22] Total number of groups reported at point of verification consultation, June 2023

The women confirmed they have been making an income from basket weaving and liquid soap making. They learnt how to make the baskets in the group, a skill they did not have before.

By participating in Hadithi crafts projects women learnt how to create baskets and have a market for the baskets so that they make and sell products.

The additional income generated from these activities has enabled them to achieve tangible things. Examples given by the members included:

- Purchased three goats which have now multiplied to 8.
- Purchased land and constructed a house for the family (income from this IGA contributed significantly)
- Purchased a television set and hoofer (big external speakers set)
- Installed a solar lighting system in the house.
- Paid for water connection at the household.
- Started a poultry business by buying few chickens which have now multiplied and are laying eggs for household consumption and selling. The chickens have been for household consumption and selling to add on to the woman's income.
- Purchased a mattress for their bed, before then they were using improvised cushions from waste clothes and sisal
- Purchased a gas cooker.
- Purchased cooking pots (sufurias) and plates as part of a restaurant business she was just starting.

Overall, the women feel that the state of their lives has been elevated because of the additional income they receive from product sales. For some of the women, it is the only income they have. Before this they depended on their husbands, and / or agricultural activities which are seasonal.

The group organises and participates in cleaning activities of their public spaces, i.e., the town centre, during such activities they wear their beautifully branded T-shirts. Members of the community have expressed open admiration to the members of the Bidii Women's Group on such occasions. There have been women (from the neighborhood) approaching them to request to join the group because of the progress and impact they can see in the existing members.

These women feel that the community respects them and seeks their views during community meetings. Other women groups in the community that are not under Hadithi or Wildlife Works approach Bidii Women's Group to seek for advice on management and development ideas. Their views are well taken into consideration in the community.

The women now have greater influence over their household, they have earned more respect from husbands because they are contributing financially to household needs/budget, and more so because the men have seen the women build their skills from scratch.

***Itinyi people living with disability*:**
This is a relatively new group consisting of women with disabilities and women taking care of a disabled household member. WWC has helped them form the group, registered, opened a bank account and started a saving scheme.

They have been trained on liquid soap making. So far, they make and buy among themselves, they find it good quality and affordable. They needed it to increase for household cleanliness. They intend to make more and sell out to people outside the group. WWC has a lineup of training planned for them in the coming months to build their skills and enable them to earn an income.

Eco Factory employees:
The eco factory has employed 45 women constituting 76% of the staff team. The eco factory focus on making clothes of different types from stitching to printing and branding, mostly for export market.

Before, none of the women had the skills they now use at the eco factory. The eco factory has attached to it a training centre that equips the women with the necessary skills. Once recruited they go through the training, fully sponsored by the eco factory, and are attached to the factory for practice before being fully employed there.
From this knowledge and skills, the women now have a livelihood, earning a regular income, this has enabled them to take their children to school. They have a savings and loan facility at the eco factory for staff, some of the women have bought land and constructed homes using this facility.

Some women have a tailoring machine at home and use the same skills during their free time to repair clothes for their family and neighbors.

Their families respect them now unlike when they had no such skills and no income.
The women are considered leaders in the community and are consulted directly on various occasions for community decisions. For example, some of the women have been elected leaders in their local community women's groups.

Whilst the eco factory training centre has continued to train women and offer attachments at the eco factory, as there are currently no employment vacancies, the trained women are employed in other places e.g., in the capital city EPZ factories reflecting the quality of the skills they have gained.

Bungule Women's Group:
The women's group has 15 members and started by learning basket weaving skills supported by Hadithi. Then they received training on organic farming and liquid soap making.

Focusing on organic farming, the women did not have any previous skills, they were trained on organic greenhouse farming and provided with a greenhouse hosted on the farm of one of the members. They prepare organic manure, manage and control pests using organic pesticides that they prepare by themselves.

They grow tomatoes and different green leafy vegetables at different seasons, they manage them at all stages without any external labour. They have an overwhelming demand for produce because it is of good quality and healthy. The women decide what to plant when, and where to sell, and how to manage the money.

The women are very much admired by the community. They are considered as opinion leaders, and many women (as well as men) request to join the group to learn organic farming.
They are respected by their spouses and families because the impact/change is tangible and the income they earn has enabled them to develop their homes and living circumstances.

They have taught their spouses and families how to prepare organic manure and pesticides, they use that on their farms and have increased the level of food production at their households. Because of the increased food and income at a household level, their spouses who previously made charcoal contributing to deforestation, have now stopped. Instead, they have developed tree nurseries and sell seedlings to WWC which are used for afforestation in the project area.

Neema Women's Group:
The group started in 2012 with 6 women, and now has 20 members. The group does table banking and loan each other money which they repay with interest (this is a popular model of groups supporting each other financially). The group was trained by Hadithi and started basket weaving which has been on going and earns them an income.

The group were later trained in the production of organic paper – using elephant dung. The women were all very clear about the paper making process because they are all involved. They sell the paper to WWC soap department, and it's used to wrap their bar soaps that are sold locally and internationally. They also make post cards from the paper and sell to Hadithi who exports them.

This group has now become a training centre and women's groups from the region and beyond come to them to be trained in paper making. The group owns a piece of land and has constructed a house where they make the paper and train the visiting groups.

This group was also trained in kitchen gardening using multi-storey gardening techniques. They use the jointly owned land for demonstrations and have also planned trees which are fully labeled. They train community members to grow household woodlots to improve their environment.

The multi-storey gardening has been very helpful especially in drought season, since it does not require a lot of water. Their households have a supply of vegetables throughout the year, and they have taught their neighbours, who are not members of the group, and now the neighbours have gardens too.

The women were also trained in making jewelry using beads, which is ongoing, and their products are sold to Hadithi.

With the different income streams developed from the knowledge gained from the various training, the women have been elevated socially and economically. Their table banking scheme has grown, and they feel very positive about it.

Buguta Disabled Community Centre:

WWC has built a centre for the community where the people with disabilities or their care givers can meet to learn skills and use them.

Current activities include:

- Stuffed animal toys making – 5 women (this is the oldest of the ventures. Started in 2012 with one disabled woman who had the skill. She was supported by Wildlife Works to train other women, they were provided with machines and linked to Hadithi as a route to market.)
- Basket weavers – 37 women (they make the baskets from home but deliver them to the centre for collection and meet at the centre for training)
- Reusable Sanitary towels making – 20 women (it is a recent venture by Wildlife Works. These are vulnerable young women in the district, not necessarily disabled. They have been trained and provided with sewing machines.)
- Leather work – 7 young men

The centre is a vibrant and welcoming place. None of the women had the skills before participating in training by provided by WWC. The stuffed animal toys, baskets and leather products e.g., bags and belts, are bought by Hadithi for export. The reusable sanitary towels are bought by various organizations that support schoolgirls with menstrual hygiene education.

The young men doing leather work occupy a small corner, and said they are learning a lot from the women about life skills, social interaction and saving from their income because they can see how they have built themselves from little income.

The 20 young women are either single mothers or were married very young, they were very dependent but now with the skills they have gained they are making an income and gaining some level of independence especially with regards to fending for the family.

The disabled women and their carers now feel useful and can make an income. They lacked both before they acquired the skill and support with access to machines, and a route to market. They are not viewed as a burden to their families and communities anymore, but rather they are recognized and invited to community meetings to contribute to decision making.

***Youth Sports Gender and Social Services Office*:**
This public office is mandated to prepare community groups to access government services, they train them on social development so that they can take advantage of opportunities and resources available locally and from development partners.

The government has limitations in what is achieved at any given location and year, but WWC has been a resource since they have supported in mobilizing the community, training them and supporting them to start income generating activities.

The Social Services office has observed growth in the numbers of registered groups and the level of activities the women's groups are doing.

The community driven development model that Wildlife Works is employing is the recommended approach. Public participation has been embraced well across all the sectors that Wildlife Works is involved in, i.e., water, health, and agriculture.

Social Services has also received support from WWC in mapping the people with disabilities and has now been able to update statistics. This is helpful in allocating government resources for people with disabilities when it is made available.

WWC is now rolling out a Community Livelihoods Development Program and intends to work with Social Services officers as the main trainers.

Appendix C: Onsite Stakeholders Consulted

Kasigau Corridor REDD Project verification - details of the women groups & stakeholders met				
Date	**W+ Domain**	**Name**	**Number**	**Comment**
06/06/2023	Income and asset	Bidii women group	19	Hadithi representative was also present
06/06/2023	Time	Itiny community women	10	Water project beneficiries
06/06/2023	Health	Marungu community women	12	
06/06/2023	Knowledge and education	Itiny women with disability	10	
06/06/2023	Time	Rukanga water committee	5	Water project beneficiries
06/06/2023	Time	visited one rukanga water point and a rock catchment water scheme		
06/07/2023	Health	Community health volunteers	5	
06/07/2023	Health	Health professionals at Marungu health centre	3	
06/07/2023	Knowledge and education	EPZ eco factory women staff	11	
06/08/2023	Knowledge and education	Bungule women group	10	They also spoke to income and asset domain
06/08/2023	Knowledge and education	Buguta women with disability	26	They also spoke to income and asset domain
06/08/2023	Knowledge and education	Neema women group	10	They also spoke to income and asset domain
06/08/2023	Time	Tavevo water and sewarage company	1	Interview taken for triangulation purposes
06/09/2023	Income and asset	Social services office	2	Interview taken for triangulation purposes
		Total number of people met	124	
		number of women met	**117**	
		number of men met	7	

Appendix D: Photographs from Verification Consultations




















WILDLIFE WORKS
REHABILITATION OF PIPING SYSTEM IN RUKANGA
This project was funded through revenues generated by the protection of the forest in the KASIGAU CORRIDOR REDD+ PROJECT

