

Case Study

co2balance in the community

Local Authority Support

Working in small communities in remote places co2balance Takes a lot of time to understand the local people and work together with them to improve their lives.

As a responsible company working within these communities, we need to operate with cultural sensitivity that considers the hierarchical structure within the villages. When we first enter a project area, meeting with the local Area Chief or the Village Elders is a top priority as they are the people responsible for all decisions within the community.

One of the Gold Standard projects our customers have helped to support is in the Ukunda district of Kenya.

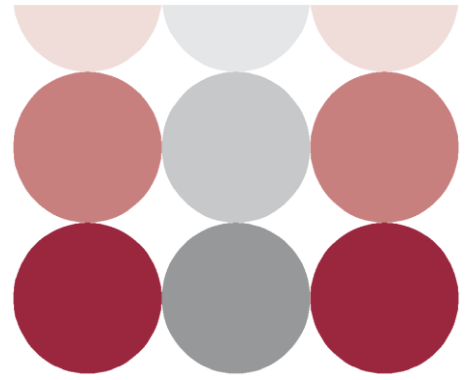
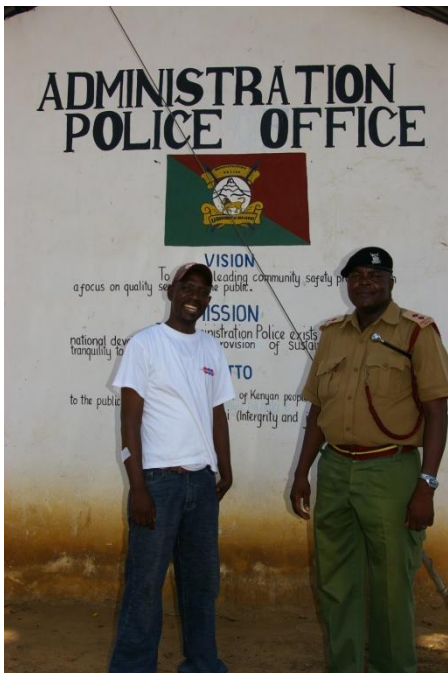


About co2balance UK Ltd

Established in 2003, co2balance UK Ltd is a leading, UK based, carbon management provider offering carbon calculation, management and reduction services to leading blue chip companies including, BSKyB, Toshiba Europe, Gaz De France, Fiat and Flybe. As a project developer co2balance UK Ltd creates African Gold Standard and CDM projects that focus on social, health and community benefits to the families within the project area, in addition to carbon savings.



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Working with the Local community

Before we start to work in a given area we carefully explain our project process, aims and intentions to the local elders and get their blessing within the selected project area. Only once they have given us approval will the rest of the community support us and allow us to begin project research and implementation. We decided to pay a visit to some of the Area officials in Diani Location, Ukunda to get their impressions of the projects we have been working on within their locations.

Our first stop was the office of the Area Chief and Assistant Area Chief for Diani Location, Ukunda. Chief Suleiman Mwadzayo was incredibly hospitable and welcoming. *"It is a great honour to have CarbonZero representatives in my office. I remember when you first came to me with the idea. I remember thinking, these people are a little bit crazy. They want to come into my village and build hundreds of stoves. How are they going to do this? This is no easy task. But now, over a year later I walk around the village and so many women are cooking on these stoves. Almost every house it has a stove. This is very impressive. It is not every day you find people come in and actually complete a project. Many organizations have been here before but have been defeated. As you see, working conditions here are not easy. There is the heat, the bad roads, the lack of water and electricity. But you have all done a very brilliant job. I think also a great sign is that the community are so excited by whoever even mentions the word CarbonZero. This is a good indicator of a good project. It means you handle people well and that they respect you and that you respect them. This is great. I know our community appreciates every single stove and also the way in which you have implemented the project. As Assistant Chief, I must say we are honored you have selected this location for a project and grateful for all the good the project brings. However we can support you we will most certainly. It is the best thing to happen to my people in years"*

We also spoke with Commander Gilbert Nyuni of the Area Police for the Diani Division. This is what Gilbert had to say *"CarbonZero is so good for our village. I spend all my time walking around this community talking to every individual. They are all so happy with this project. There was resistance in the beginning, but you came into the village, and you met with everyone and kindly explained the benefits very slowly in a way they could understand. I remember this. You called a meeting and you showed them a model of the stove and step by step how the project works. It is this patience and explaining that made people want to try the new stove. Now everyone is loving it. You know in Diani people buy firewood, not collect. So people spend so much money every day and it is hard because of unemployment. This lets them save so much. I welcome this project into my location. It is really benefiting my people. I can see it every day"*

The opinion of Village leaders and district authorities is a great indicator of the success of any project. The village leaders in Ukunda as in all our many projects have played a pivotal role in enabling the smooth implementation and ongoing support in their communities. Our projects do a lot more than just create Carbon credits they make a significant difference to the lives of the people in the communities in which we operate.

To find out more about our CarbonZero stove projects or other products and services please visit our website: www.co2balance.com