

Case Study

co2balance in the community.

Safeguarding the Forest

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

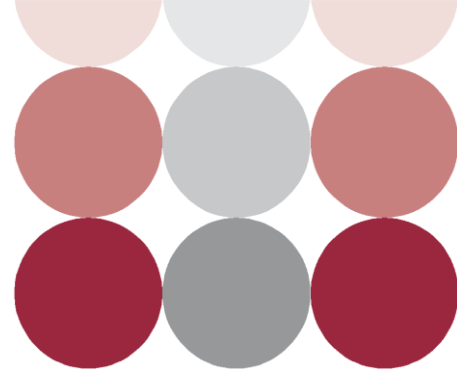
The Aberdares project is located in Lari District in Kiambu County, high on the eastern ridge of the Great Rift Valley and close to the Equator in Kenya . The project name is derived from the Aberdare Ranges of West Central Kenya.

The Aberdares region contains a rich diversity of vegetation. There are several ancient forests in the region like **Kereita Forest** which is at the core of the project area; this forest is at the southern-most end of the Aberdare range and several kilometers from Kimende the local centre of population and shopping centre. This forest is credited with the largest-scale of destruction related to Kenya's indigenous tree species, mainly as a result of the use of wood fuel as a source of firewood by the community surrounding the forest.



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.



Long Term Support for Ancient Forest Resources.



The main economic activities of people in the region are small scale agriculture and some limited associated trade. The co2balance energy efficient cook stove project is making a positive change in the community in this region and at the same time contributing to conservation of the forest. The improved efficiency cookstoves supplied by the co2balance project reduce the wood fuel required for daily cooking by 50%. The reduced impact on the surrounding forest resources is starting to show real dividends.

Local residents often travel several kilometers from surrounding villages on foot to collect firewood within the protected forest area. Not only is this time consuming but it can be expensive as official permits are mandatory for anyone who wants to prune and collect firewood within the reserve.

The Aberdares project team spoke at length with Mr Njuguna who is the Forest Security officer at Kereita forest about the impacts the project has made in this area.

"Since the distribution of co2balance stove, I have noted a significant change in the number of times the surrounding village residents come to fetch firewood in the forest. The frequency has reduced to once a week with lesser bundles harvested as compared to before when firewood was fetched everyday. It is also a relief as the numbers of people seeking tree harvesting permit for charcoal burning has also reduced".

So for the families in the community who have benefitted from the cook stoves, they are having to make fewer trips, saving them time, which can better be used for other income generating activities. In addition they have to pay for fewer permits to collect the wood saving them money directly which can be used for other essentials.

The reduction in local wood fuel demand as a direct result of the co2balance project relieves external pressure on the precious reserve of ancient indigenous forest. Leaving more trees standing creates protection for the reestablishment of indigenous species, which is not only great for the trees themselves but the entire ecosystem from insect and bird life to a wide range of large animal species such as Rhino and Elephant that live in these ancient forests.

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