

ABOUT THE LIVELIHOODS CARBON FUNDS

With a first fund launched in 2011, the **Livelihoods Carbon Funds (LCF)** invest in large-scale projects to restore natural ecosystems, promote sustainable farming practices and renewable energies. These projects have a positive impact on the environment while at the same time improving the standard of living of rural communities. The Livelihoods Carbon Funds were created by companies that are committed to combating climate change and transforming their own production models. Following the success of the first fund, a second Livelihoods Carbon Fund was launched in 2017.

The investments have a twin objective: to help combat climate change by storing large quantities of carbon in trees and the soil, and to help poor rural communities to sustainably enhance their resilience and standard of living. The carbon is measured and certified in line with benchmark international standards (Verra & Gold Standard). Beyond high-quality carbon offsets, all LCF projects deliver additional social and environmental impacts which contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations (SDGs). To date, 12 private companies have been supporting the Livelihoods Carbon Funds: Danone, SAP, Hermès, Crédit Agricole, Crédit-Agricole Midi-Pyrénées, Michelin, Voyageurs du Monde, Groupe Caisse des Dépôts, La Poste, Firmenich, Schneider Electric and Eurofins.

Read more about Livelihoods' collective adventure in an unprecedented book, written by Bernard Giraud, President & Co-Founder of the Livelihoods Funds:

- In French: "Ces Mains qui Réparent la Terre"
- In English: "The Hands restoring the Earth"

The Livelihoods Carbon Funds projects

Restoration of key natural ecosystems, rural energy, and agroforestry with strong benefits for rural communities



SENEGAL: 80 million of mangroves restored to boost biodiversity, new sources of income and local villagers' pride



Livelihoods' mangrove restoration project in Casamance and Sine Saloum estuaries of Senegal has helped 450 local villages replant 10,415 out of the existing 185,000 hectares of mangrove, between 2009 and 2012. During this period, the planting programme of native *Rhizophora* species was carried out among the 45,000 hectares of mangroves which had been lost since the 1970s. The project involved the participation of more than 200,000 people, while revived mangroves have helped bring back biodiversity, fish, and a source of income to thousands of local communities.

In 2018, the Livelihoods Carbon Fund entrusted the French Research Institute "La Tour du Valat"¹ to conduct a study that measured the project's social, economic, and environmental impacts, 10 years after its launch. It revealed that beyond restoring biodiversity and creating new sources of income, the restoration of mangroves still is to date one of the collective actions the villagers are the proudest of.

Learn more about the [10-year impacts of the project as perceived by the local communities](#).

KENYA (Embu): Reducing deforestation through rural energy & agroforestry with 60,000 households



Baptized "Hifadhi", which means "to preserve" in Swahili, this project has distributed 60,000 efficient cookstoves in Embu County, at the foot of Mount Kenya. "Hifadhi" cookstoves are made of locally sourced metal and ceramic materials. They are highly energy-efficient because of a ceramic liner that improves combustion and retains heat longer. Its main quality is that it decreases wood consumption by 60% compared to traditional three-stone cookstoves. The project will save 13,000 tons of wood and avoid more than 1 million tons of CO₂ over 10 years.

More about [Livelihoods' rural energy project in Kenya](#).

¹ Created in 1954 by Luc Hoffmann, a visionary naturalist and ornithology enthusiast, [La Tour du Valat](#) is a French research institute which works for the conservation of Mediterranean wetlands with a clear objective: better understand wetlands to better manage them. For decades, La Tour du Valat has been conducting research and integrated management programmes to preserve these natural environments that are essential to life on earth.

ARAKU VALLEY, INDIA: From marginalization to premium coffee production with indigenous communities



In Eastern India, the valley of Araku is entirely inhabited by indigenous tribes. Twenty years ago, the marginalized Adivasi communities of Araku, were suffering from extremely low literacy and extremely high maternal mortality rates. The forest on which Adivasis' livelihoods depended on, had disappeared during the British settlements. In 2010, Livelihoods supported the local NGO [Naandi Foundation](#) to help tribal inhabitants regenerate their forest through sustainable land practices. Farmers learned how to make their own compost, increase soil fertility, and even produce their own high quality and organic "araku coffee" that is now sold internationally.

In 2018, Livelihoods pursued its support and launched an even more ambitious project that combines landscape preservation, soil restoration and sustainable agriculture. Livelihoods-Araku 2 project's goal is to restore the entire landscape, improve food security, preserve biodiversity to ensure the economic development of the entire valley. It will help sequester additional 2.3 million tons of CO₂ in 20 years.

[Watch the film](#) of the incredible story of Adivasi farmers stepping out of poverty.

SUNDARBANS, INDIA: 16 million mangrove trees to protect coastal communities



Livelihoods' mangrove restoration project in the Sundarbans, implemented with the [Nature Environment & Wildlife Society \(NEWS\)](#) is ensuring the safety of the local population by reinforcing the existing dykes since mangroves are among the strongest natural barriers against cyclones and hurricanes. The new mangroves also produce timber and increase food supply, as villagers are now able to earn extra income by selling the crabs, shrimps, and mollusks that mangrove forests harbor. Thanks to the restoration of more than 5,000 hectares of mangroves launched in 2011, fish, birds, shrimps, and other crustaceans are back.

Today, the project area counts more than 500 crab collectors instead of 50 before the project was launched, in one afforested island alone and a big bird colony. These plantations will store 700,000 tons of CO₂ over the project's life span of 20 years. The mangroves acted as a bio-shield in May 2020 when Amphan cyclone hit the region and played a key role in protect local communities.

[Learn more about the project and mangroves' bio-shield role.](#)

INDIA: Agroforestry and silk tree plantation with Adivasi communities



In the States of Jharkhand and West Bengal, Eastern India, Livelihoods launched in 2020 a high-scale agroforestry and silk-tree plantation project to couple reforestation, biodiversity preservation and sustained livelihoods for thousands of tribal Adivasi communities. The project builds on an initiative successfully implemented by local and reputed PRADAN NGO which has set up the whole value chain of tasar sericulture for the past twenty years. The production of tasar silk involves rearing silkworms on forest trees to produce cocoons, of which silk yarn is later extracted to produce silk fabric.

Overall, the project will store 1.4 million tons of CO₂ over 20 years, and provide carbon offsets with strong environmental, economic, and social benefits to Livelihoods' investors and partner companies: it will contribute to restore soil health and preserve water resources. Livelihoods-Arjuna project will finance the plantation of 3,000 hectares of tasar silk trees in privately owned wastelands in the villages, thus generating income for 4,000 rural households represented by women. The project will also help preserve 3,600 additional forest hectares and support 1,200 households undertake silkworm rearing in host trees.

Learn more about [Livelihoods-Arjuna project in India](#).

RWANDA: Agroforestry at scale for soil, water, and food



On the hilly slopes of Rwanda, East Africa, the livelihoods of rural communities are particularly fragile. Small country of 26 338km², Rwanda is facing strong demographic pressure (12.3 million people), which has affected natural ecosystems and agricultural land, further exacerbated by the effects of climate change. Livelihoods is implementing a large-scale agroforestry and fruit tree planting project in the districts of Rulindo (Northern Province) and Bugesera (Eastern Province of Rwanda).

The project will plant 3.7 million trees and train close to 30, 000 farmers to sustainable agriculture. It will be implemented by the local NGO ARCOS (Albertine Rift Conservation Society) which benefits from a strong network of public and private actors and an excellent relationship with local communities. Highly involved at every step of the project, local authorities at village and district levels will support several activities such as nurseries preparation, tree planting activities, and farmer cooperatives. This high-scale agroforestry project will sequester more than 2.2 million tons of CO₂ over 20 years.

Learn more about [Livelihoods' agroforestry project in Rwanda](#).