

PROJECT BRIEF

Direct Payments for Ecosystem Services

Background

Local communities are often the most affected by climate change. They are also the best positioned to fight it. As participants in microeconomic systems dependent on land and local resources, local communities are acutely aware both of the limit of their ecosystem and how to best steward it for inter-generational sustainability. The services they provide in maintaining, stewarding, and responsibly utilizing regional landscapes are critical in the fight against climate change.

NGOs and others interested in financing these valuable services wish to channel funding directly to these communities, however, have limited visibility into the transparency of cash transfers delivered, or its subsequent economic, environmental and social impact.

About this Project

The [Climate Collective](#) has funded this project to test the targeted deployment of direct payment via cryptocurrency to individuals providing valuable ecosystem services. This will test a model in which intermediaries and costs are reduced and maximum transfer can be made in a traceable manner directly to those providing the greatest impact. This work will be done in partnership with local project developers and community organizations already coordinating these services, and deployed via [GoodDollar](#), a mission-driven protocol and cryptocurrency with a track record of onboarding hard-to-reach communities to crypto wallets.

At the highest level, this pilot is designed to test:

- Efficacy of a model to further incentivize individuals creating climate impact through the provision of environmental services (e.g. trash recovery), land stewardship, biodiversity stewardship, or land regeneration (e.g. afforestation, rewilding, adoption of regenerative ag/forestry practices).
- How crypto incentive payments can serve as a means of deploying direct money transfers that are transparent and manageable for NGOs and other institutions.

Contact

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