

Peru: Avoided Deforestation

Sustainable Forestry in the Amazon basin in Madre de Dios Province



Certification:



Key Facts

Location:
Madre de Dios, Peru

Project type:
REDD+

Total emissions reduction:
» 660,000t CO₂e p.a. «

Project standard:
Verified Carbon Standard & CCBS

Project start date:
January 2009

Background

The Amazon basin stretches over 8 million square kilometers. Inaccessibility provides effective protection for invaluable habitats for animals and plants. Madre de Dios province in the East of Peru is a prime example of this remoteness. Scientists estimate that 10% of the animal species in the area are still unknown.

Since August 2011, the Interoceanic Highway cuts through the region. It is more than 2,600 kilometres long and connects the Brazilian part of the Amazon to the Pacific coast. Experience in past decades shows that with improved accessibility, deforestation for agriculture and illegal logging will follow suit. The concessions stretch over 100,000 hectares covered by dense rainforest. Effective surveillance of this area to prevent illegal dwelling and destructive forest use is only possible with the support of carbon certificate revenues.



The Project

The REDD Project is located in the Vilcabamba Amboró Conservation Corridor in the Peruvian Amazon. The corridor is a biodiversity hotspot. The project aims to improve livelihood of local communities, reduce unplanned deforestation and conserve biodiversity. The project seeks to achieve its objectives by supporting productive activities that benefit local communities. Activities include sustainable forest management in Forest Stewardship Council-certified timber concessions.

Evidencing its exceptional benefits, the Madre de Dios project has been awarded gold level certification under the highly regarded Climate, Community and Biodiversity (CCB) Standard.

Sustainable Development

By supporting this project you'll contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goals:



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

While focusing on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, all our projects also generate multiple co-benefits. These are supportive of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



No poverty

Sustainable forestry management and timber extraction create job opportunities in the local forestry industry and provide income for local communities.



Decent work and economic growth

This project generates permanent employment to the local communities. Employment in the region has grown by 400 per cent.



Reduced inequalities

The project contributes to the sustainable development of indigenous communities, particularly the Yine and Mashco Piro tribes. It conserves the local habitats and the livelihood of local indigenous communities who rely on the forest for their survival.



Responsible consumption and production

Project funds are used to provide training courses for young people. The project also trains local communities in skills such as biodiversity monitoring and forest fire management.



Climate action

Forests act as carbon sinks and preventing deforestation reduce the amount of carbon emissions released into the atmosphere.



Life on land

Deforestation threatens many species. This project reduces deforestation in the Peruvian Amazon and protects the habitat of endangered species.



Technology brief – how it works

Carbon circulates within a cycle, consisting of the atmosphere, the plant, plant litter and the soil. Carbon dioxide drawn from the surrounding atmosphere is the main input of any plant's photosynthesis processes. The outputs are water, oxygen and carbohydrates. The latter are built into the plant's fiber thereby fixing carbon in the plant's biomass. Ultimately, the carbon re-enters the atmosphere from decaying biomass litter or soil respiration.

Deforestation breaks this cycle with multi-fold negative effects. First, burning biomass directly increases the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Secondly, it reduces the biosphere's absolute capacity to fix carbon. Thirdly, the removal of plant cover accelerates the rate at which carbon fixed in soils is respired into the atmosphere. Lastly, the erosion of soils impedes the long-term recovery of vegetation on degraded areas. This is a particularly challenging issue in tropical climates where soils are mostly poor in nutrients



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Project Standard



The Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) is a global standard for the validation and verification of voluntary carbon emission reductions. Emissions reductions from VCS projects have to be real, measurable, permanent, additional, unique, transparent, and third-party verified. Assessed against the background of the total volume of emission reductions, VCS is the globally leading standard for voluntary carbon offsets.



The Climate, Community & Biodiversity (CCB) Standards were launched in 2005 to foster development of, and investment in, site-based projects that deliver credible and significant climate, community and biodiversity benefits in an integrated, sustainable manner.

Facts and Figures



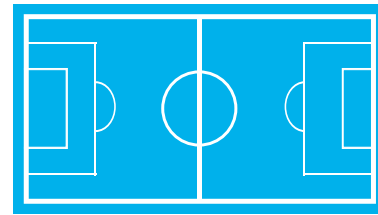
100,000

The project protects **100,000 Ha** of rainforest, covering an area as big as Melbourne.



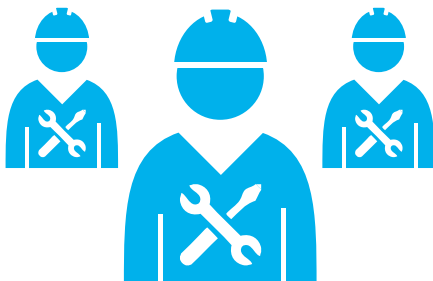
35

The project protects the habitat of **35 endangered species** and the livelihood of local indigenous communities



>600

In June and August 2017 alone, 435 hectares of low-lying tropical rainforests were deforested along the Interoceanic Highway. This area equals **600** football fields.



95

The project created new job opportunities for local people. The number of employees increased from 12 in 2007 to **95** in 2012.

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