

Reforestation Project, Colombia

This pioneering forestry project entails permanent reforestation and long-term monitoring of parts of Colombia's northeast and northwest, with a focus on biodiversity. Both areas were heavily affected by illegal gold prospecting, coca plantations and unsuitable agricultural practices.

Locations



The project is situated in two unconnected regions in Colombia's northeast and northwest. Illegal gold prospecting, coca plantations and unsuitable agricultural practices have heavily degraded both areas. Arauca's savannas on the border to Venezuela, far away from major urban centers, host vulnerable gallery forests and several endangered species. The distinct Andean forests in Antioquia accommodate a variety of species from the mountains all the way to the Caribbean coast.

Project



In opposition to the common practice of reforestation through planting monocultures for tree plantations, this project is aimed at restoring a degraded former forest, with a focus on re-establishing its rich ecosystem by using native species only. 25 local tree species were planted and already led to the settling of another 75 plants and a multitude of animals in the now restored and still growing forest. The project observes basic principles of sustainable forest management, with 11,000 ha already purchased, surveyed and mapped.

In spite of reduced danger of diseases and pests as observed in monocultures, and although tropical conditions will usually prevent any forest fires, an insurance against natural disasters has been effected. Moreover, only 70% of the actual CO₂ reductions are foreseen for sales, while another 30% enter a buffer pool for incalculable events. The afforested areas are managed sustainably, i.e. only trees potentially damaging overall performance will be lumbered.

The project undergoes validation according to the *Climate, Community, and Biodiversity Standard (CCB)* which is currently the strictest standard for forestation projects. It stands for outstanding biodiversity benefits, and the integration of local people within the project. For registration and subsequent reduction of the certificates, and to prohibit double use of the credits, the *Verified Carbon Standard (VCS)* has been equally applied.



Benefits



• New habitat is created for endangered species, including rare turtles, the Northern Muriqui, and numerous kinds of parrots.

• Not only the climate and local ecosystems, also local inhabitants greatly profit from this project's implementation. New jobs are provided to establish a vital alternative for a region that has long depended on illegal coca plantations.

• The project will also introduce new, ecologically sensitive methods for battling mosquitoes to replace the practice of oil-poisoning breeding ponds.



• The project serves as inspiration and proof that the challenging approach of reforestation with no monocultures but mixed native species to develop efficient carbon credits actually works – in both an economic and ecologic sense.

Details

South Pole Project No. 300658

DOE: Environmental Services, Inc.

Standard: CCBS/VCS

Expected amount of emission reductions

over lifetime of 30 years (except buffer) : 2.4 MtCO₂e



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