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Brazil:

Sustainable forest management helps protect valuable ecosystems





Background

The Amazon, the world's largest rainforest, covers an area of about 8 million square kilometers. It is also the dominant feature of Amapá, which is Brazil's second least populous state. Unexplored rainforest covers over 70% of its area. In recent years the rate of deforestation has been steadily declining, dropping by 71% between 2004 and 2014. This is due to government policies demarcating protected areas and recognising land claims of indigenous people. The World Bank records that socio-economic progress has lifted 29million people out of poverty since 2003 but many people still rely heavily on forests for energy.

Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon has been an important environmental topic for several decades, but it is a persistent problem. Forests are still cleared for agriculture or cattle ranching and illegal logging expands at an alarming rate. This applies immense pressure on the rainforest's treasured biodiversity.



The Project

In 2000, the Jari Group acquired a large portion of the Jari Valley rainforest. The valley is home to over two thousand rural families, and acts as an ecological corridor in connecting several high value conservation areas. Its rich biodiversity includes over 54 threatened species of plants, and over one hundred threatened animals. The project is focused on protecting forest cover, monitoring conservation and implementing a variety of activities designed to reduce deforestation risks. Local communities are included in this effort, with the Jari Foundation focusing its efforts on the growth of sustainable businesses which serve the dual purpose of providing income to the community and protecting the forest.

Location: State of Amapá, Brazil

Project type: REDD+

Total emission reductions: ▷▷ 115,000t CO₂ e p.a. <<

Project standard: Verified Carbon Standard

Project start date: April 2011

Sustainable Development

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





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SUSTAINABLE 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

The local population is closely involved in the activities of the project and benefits from improved income opportunities as provided by initiatives for sustainable land use. Improved cultivation methods help to increase crop yields in agriculture.



Decent work and economic growth

The project will deploy rural technical assistance, coordination with stakeholders, trainings with relevant organizations, and support in facilitating market access for sustainable products. This will provide employment opportunities to locals.



Responsible consumption and production

The project works closely with local communities to develop sustainable business models which provide viable alternatives to livelihoods which have often relied on the destruction of the rainforest.



Life on land

The Jari Valley is home to a unique, high-value ecosystem with over two thousand species of animals, many of which are of extreme ecological importance. The project's efforts in preserving biodiversity will protect these endangered and important animals as well as their habitats.



Partnerships for the goals

The project coordinates scientific research in the area, promoting studies which focus on the efficient use of natural resources and the impact on biodiversity. This makes the project responsible as it encourages environmental awareness and sustainable living.

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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 fibre 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. Firstly, 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.



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.



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For more information on other projects in our portfolio please visit our website:

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