

Peru: Brazil nut project helps to avoid deforestation



Certification:



Key Facts



Background

The Amazon basin stretches over eight million square kilometers, about twenty times the size of Germany. Sheer inaccessibility provides effective protection for invaluable habitats for animals and plants. Madre de Dios province in the East of Peru is a prime example for this. There are indigenous groups living in the region that haven't yet made contact with the outside world and scientists estimate that 10% of the animal species in the area might still be unknown.

However, this delicate ecosystem is threatened. Since August 2011, the Transoceanica highway is cutting through the region. The Transoceanica is more than 6,200 kilometers long and connects Rio de Janeiro in Brazil to the Peruvian capital of Lima on the Pacific coast.



The Project

The Rainforest Community Project brings together hundreds of local families and small-scale concession holders which harvest Brazil nuts in the Peruvian Amazon. Through investment from the project, these nuts can be sustainably harvested, processed and sold directly to international export markets for the first time. The project provides a viable alternative to deforestation in providing sustainably generated income for local communities.

Experience in past decades shows that better access increases deforestation for agriculture and illegal logging. This project comprises of two forestry concessions that are managed in line with Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) guidelines. 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.

Location:

Madre de Dios, Peru

Project type:

REDD+

Total emission reductions:

» 2,100,000t CO₂e p.a. «

Project standard:

Verified Carbon Standard & CCBS

Project start date:

October 2009

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.



Clean water and sanitation

The protected area is a main water collector of the drainage systems within the region. The preservation of the natural cycles is therefore of major importance for the preservation of local water resources. Forest protection also improves local soil and water quality by avoiding soil degradation and reducing erosion.



Decent work and economic growth

The project creates new income opportunities for the people living in the project area. Sustainable forest management and the protection and surveillance of the project area are reliable sources of income for local communities.



Responsible consumption and production

The project enables small local farmers to sustainably cultivate, harvest and process brazil nuts. Additionally, they get easy access to international markets where they can sell their final product.



Climate action

The project reduces the emission levels of greenhouse gases. Furthermore, by allowing the forest to recover, trees are able to absorb CO₂ emissions, further reducing levels within the atmosphere.



Life on land

The natural rainforests in the Amazon region are an extremely bio-diverse habitat and home to many endangered species. They are also a very important source for food and building materials, and provide combustible wood.



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.



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.

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