

Brazil:
Avoided deforestation in the Amazon rainforest
Protecting 150,000 ha of forest



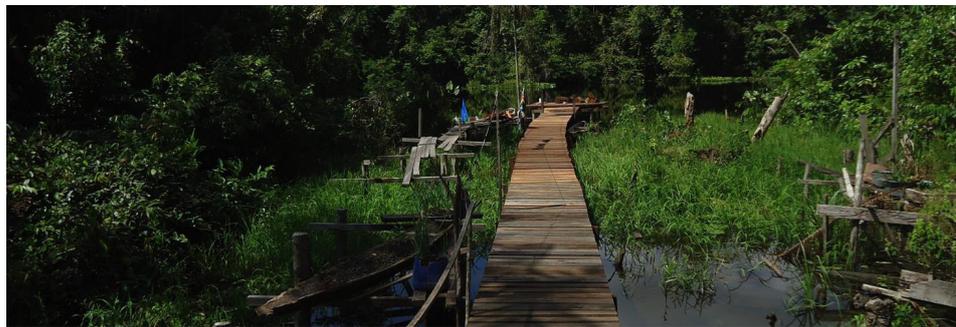
Key Facts



Background

Over two thirds of Brazil is covered in forest land. However, only 17% of this large forest area is protected and many areas are vulnerable to deforestation. As a result, Brazil has lost almost 10% of its forest cover since 1990. Part of the problem is that Brazilian law allows squatters to claim legal ownership of unused land after 5 years and thus legalizes clearing. As owners, people are allowed to cut down 20% of their forest without breaking the law. This consequently creates the issue of squatters claiming and logging areas of land. The forest is predominantly vulnerable from the outside where loggers can easily access it from transport links. However, pioneer roads are quickly making their way deeper into the forest and eating away at it from the inside.

Deforestation and landuse changes account for around 60% of Brazil's total CO₂ emissions, meaning the country currently stands at 2.3t of carbon dioxide being produced per capita every year. In 2010, Brazil was the 6th biggest emitter of CO₂ in the world despite the fact that 41% of all energy and 83% of electricity in the country was generated from renewable sources. By protecting its forests, Brazil will not only protect many endangered species, but will also significantly reduce its future projected carbon footprint.



The Project

The project area covers nearly 150,000 ha of land in the Portel municipality. It does this through on-the-ground patrolling, strategic physical occupation of territory, improvement of forest management practices and encouraging sustainable use of forest products. The project also focuses on the local communities within the area, improving their quality of life and empowering them as their own population. Communities will be involved in the activities related to biodiversity, since the forest resources provide almost entirely the income of the families, as well as their food. Villagers within the project area will be trained and employed as rangers to patrol the area to prevent illegal logging and deforestation by offering squatters to cooperate with the project.

Location:
Pará State, Brazil

Project type:
REDD+

Total emission reductions:
» 264,000t CO₂e p.a. «

Project standard:
VCS

Project start date:
January 2008

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.



Zero hunger

The project promotes the use of agroforestry systems which can help to diversify food production. Diversification makes production less vulnerable to weather changes, increasing the security of food supply.



Good health and well-being

Efficient cookstoves are disseminated among cassava producers. These will replace traditional fires which were inefficient and released high levels of air pollution. Therefore the cookstoves will reduce ill health related to exposure to air pollution.



Decent work and economic growth

Local villagers within the project area are employed and trained as monitors to the project. This provides an alternative source of income in rural areas. Furthermore, some of the funds produced by carbon sales go towards families in the area to help start up their own businesses.



Sustainable cities and communities

The project works to teach communities and enhance their organizational capabilities for better management of local resources. This will reduce unsustainable logging and increase the use of agroforestry.



Responsible consumption and production

Anyone caught squatting, illegally logging or ranching will be offered the opportunity to join with project activities. This is a good solution to such problems as it offers alternative incomes and livelihoods rather than just moving the problems on to another area.



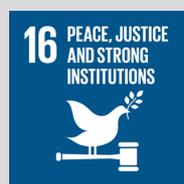
Climate action

Within the project's lifetime it is estimated that over 10.5million tons of CO₂ will be prevented from entering into the atmosphere. This is well over double the amount of emissions annually produced by Madagascar.



Life on land

The forest protection enhances local ecosystem functionality by allowing for the regeneration of degraded forests. This eliminates ecosystem fragmentation. Furthermore, the protection of the forest creates safe habitats for native wildlife.



Peace, justice and strong institutions

The project has so far been successful in removing illegal activities from the area such as logging, squatting and attempts to implement pastures. Furthermore, the project aids locals in securing land tenure rights.



Forest Protection in Pará

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. 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.

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