



Sustainability action · Project Forest and Land use

Vegachi Forest Conservation

Avoiding deforestation and boosting the local economy in rural Colombia

Extensive timber extraction from forests and cattle ranching have led to deforestation and degraded lands in the area of Vegachi. This forestry project aims at the recovery of the native vegetation through the reforestation of 800 hectares of degraded grazing land with native species. It also includes conservation forest and restoration activities to protect highly endangered tree species of the Magnoliaceae family.

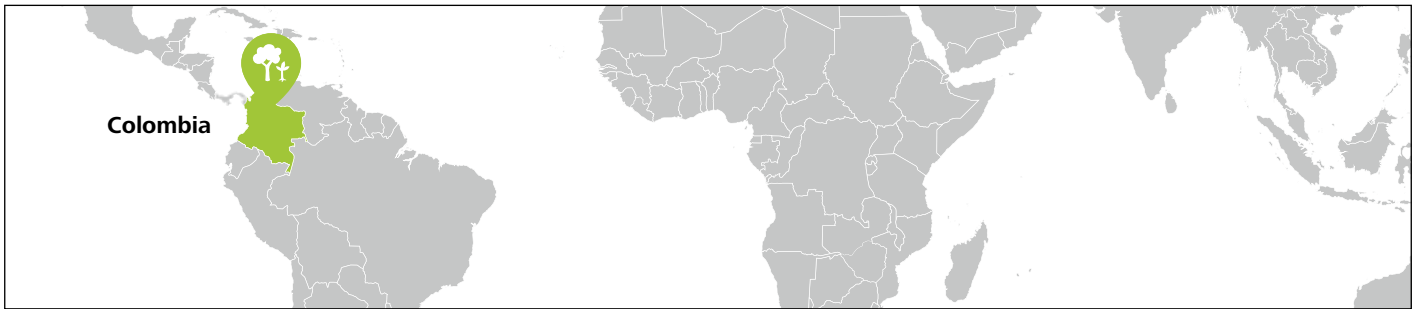
Project

For a long time, cattle farming and agricultural activities for subsistence have been the main productive activities in Antioquia. Today, the Vegachi project is developing a new agroforestry culture around the potential of sustainable forest management's high value.

The project not only offers direct employment to the local population but also economic alternatives in the service sector that tackle unemployment and improve general living conditions in the region. The initiative brings well-being to the workers and their families in terms of health care, education, infrastructure and working equipment. Local communities receive training in forest management, soil conservation activities and production and processing of forest products.

The project area contains more than 1,600 acres, with some spots already planted with native species such as Cedar (*Cedrela odorata*), Walnut tree (*Cordia gerascantus*), Paco (*Swietenia macrophylla*), and Guaiacum (*Tabebuia rosea*), now adding endangered species of the Magnoliaceae family such as *Magnolia Silvioi* in a joint effort with the Botanical Garden of Medellín.

Checklist	Additionality and permanence	Annual CO ₂ reduction	Social and environmental benefits	Marketing material
Project 301 107	According to the rules of the Gold Standard	60,000 tCO ₂ e	As documented in our database	High resolution pictures available



Location

The project is located in the municipalities of Vegachi and Tierralta, Antioquia, in the mountainous Central-Northwestern part of Colombia, bordering with the Caribbean Sea.

Project achievements

Socio-economic impact

- Several permanent jobs for locals have been generated, and training and technology transfer workshops implemented.
- Training workshops on monitoring and conservation of species have been conducted.

Environmental impact

- The project directly strengthens the conservation of several species of Colombian endangered endemic trees.
- Reforestation will establish a good root system and develop leaf litter layers, all of which helps to conserve and enrich soil fertility and prevent soil erosion.
- The project plays a significant role in reducing the runoff of water, helping to conserve the water supplies within the hydrological systems. In addition, the subsoil water table recharge will be improved, facilitating improvements in tree growth on the project site.
- Patches of natural forests in the project area are kept as conservation area to support natural ecological succession and biodiversity.

Gold Standard

