



Sustainability action · Project Forest and Land use

## Vegachi Forest Conservation

**Avoiding deforestation and boosting the local economy in rural Colombia**

*This forest conservation project is aimed at providing sustainable livelihood opportunities for poor communities in Northern Zimbabwe, a region now suffering heavily from deforestation, poverty, and drought.*

### Project

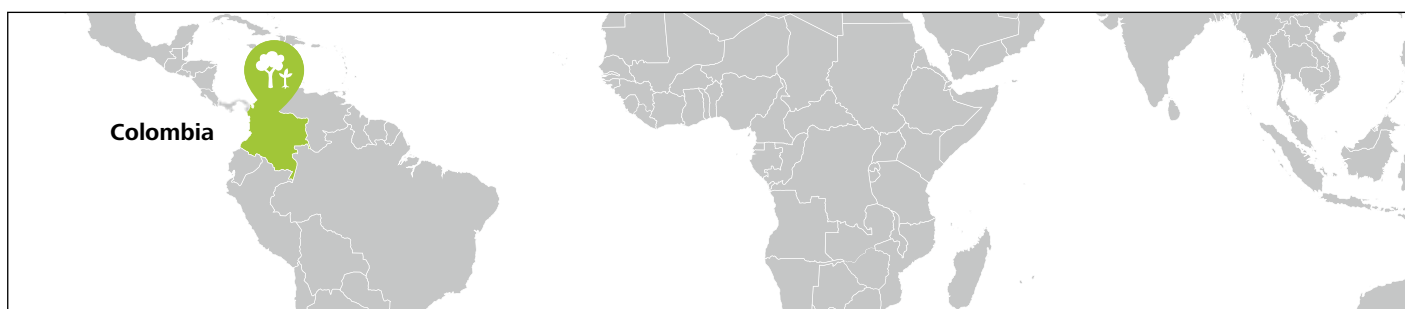
For a long time, cattle farming and agricultural activities for subsistence have been the main productive activities in Antioquia. Today, the Vegachi project is developing a new agroforestry culture around the potential of sustainable forest management's high value.

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 <sub>2</sub> reduction | Social and environmental benefits | Marketing material                 |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Project 301 107 | According to the rules of the Gold Standard | 60,000 tCO <sub>2</sub> 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.

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**Gold Standard**

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