



Sustainability action · Project Forest and Land use

## Chocó-Darién forest protection, Colombia

*The Chocó-Darién Conservation Corridor aims to address biodiversity loss and global climate change by protecting the lowland rainforests of Colombia's Pacific coast.*

### Project

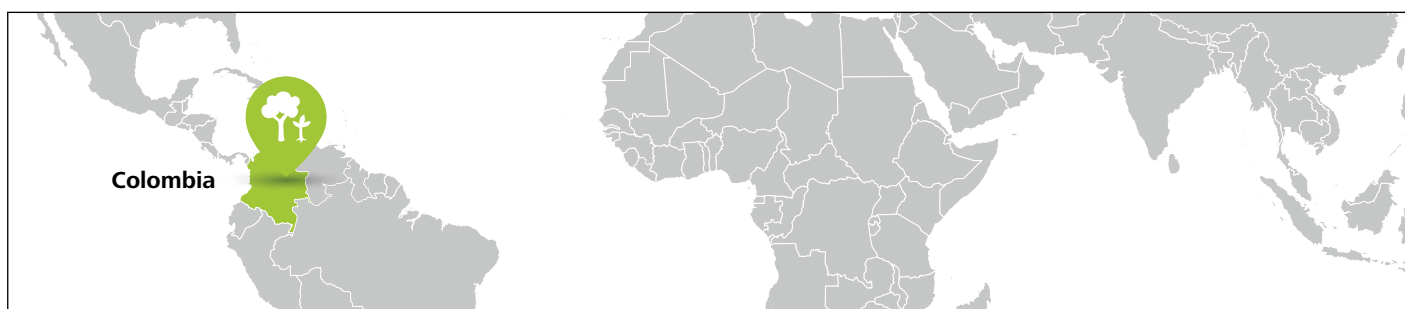
The project protects around 13,000 hectares of tropical rainforest in the Darién region of northwest Colombia, one of the most biologically diverse regions on the planet.

Cattle ranching is very common in the region, and there are an estimated 47,000 heads of cattle in the vicinity of the project. The strategy is to stop the spread of ranching into the project area, thereby protecting Afro-Colombian livelihoods as well as the forests on which they depend. Working together with engineers and botanists, community teams identified and measured over 3,000 trees and palms to estimate the amount of carbon stored in their

forest. Completing the carbon inventory gave community members the knowledge and skills they need to monitor the forest on a regular basis, in addition to a new appreciation and respect for the forests they call home.

State of the art monitoring via remote sensing and community surveillance will be carried out in collaboration with the Carnegie Institution for Science, and will provide timely and accurate assessments of project impacts. Project monitoring will be managed in an open source mapping platform to inform and engage policymakers, the scientific community, and the general public. Project activities include the building of governance capacity by raising awareness of collective identity and rights, reducing carbon emissions through community surveillance to conserve existing forest, and investing in green commodity production by improving technologies and agricultural practices.

| Checklist       | Additionality and permanence                            | 3 <sup>rd</sup> party verified | Transparency                              | Annual CO <sub>2</sub> -reduction | Social and environmental benefits | Marketing material                 |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Project 301 274 | According to the rules of the FSC and CCBS (Gold level) | by SCS                         | Provided by Markit Environmental Registry | 96,000 tCO <sub>2</sub> e         | As documented in our database     | High resolution pictures available |



## Location

The project lies in the Chocó biogeographic region, in north-western Colombia. The region, close to the Pacific, is recognized as one of the most biodiverse regions in the world for its strategic geographic location and high levels of species endemism.

## Project achievements

### Socio-economic impact

- This REDD+ project provides income to reinvest in the cultural identity and territorial autonomy of the local Afro-descendent communities.
- The project will support microfinance groups, educate communities in improved forest management and biodiversity conservation, and provide training in sustainable agricultural practices, sustainable forest management, monitoring and administration activities.
- The project has created over 40 full and part-time jobs in the community, ranging from managerial positions, to specially trained staff.
- Women play a special role in the management of the project, occupying most of the top administrative positions.
- The project invests in green commodity production and secures markets for other community products.
- Communities receive 50% of net profits from the project.
- The neighboring Chidima and Pescadito indigenous reserves benefit from improved watershed management and border patrols along shared boundaries.
- Resources from the project will be distributed collectively, meaning improved access to the resources of the territory, which at present are only accessed and enjoyed by a minority.
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### Environmental impact

- The project protects critical habitat for migratory birds, endemic species with limited distribution, and threatened or endangered species including: Jaguar, Great green macaw, Baird's tapir, Harlequin frog, Colombian spider monkey and the Cotton-top tamarin.
- A total of 86 plant species in the project zone are locally endemic, and 15 plant species are IUCN listed, including a distinctive montane oak forest (*Quercus humboldtii*).

