



Biomass, Brazil

This biomass fuel switch project in two brick factories is contributing to the protection of the Amazon rainforest and sustainable development in the Brazilian state of Pará.

Location



This fuel switch project is located at two brickworks in the state of Pará in Northern Brazil, in the Eastern Amazon rainforest. The state's economy is based mostly on forest products (from natural rubber to precious hardwoods), agriculture (cattle breeding), and mining.

Project



Deforestation for cattle pasture and soya production has led to a significant decline in both the extent and health of the Amazon rainforest. With a decrease in rainfall in the forest, changes in seasonal balance are expected, which have a significant impact on both the Amazonian and global climate.

With rising awareness of climate and environmental issues in the region, both individuals and enterprises are however taking action. Two brickworks in Brazil's state of Pará are leading by example by modifying their burner systems to process waste biomass instead of native timber.

For many years, the two ceramics factories burned an average of 1400m³ of native wood per month as fuel to feed the kilns. This contributed to poor forest management which compromises the vitality of the Caatinga forest, an important regional environmental concern. Recent long periods of drought in this part of the forest have already decreased forest health and biodiversity issues. Thanks to the establishment of this climate protection project, the factories have now switched to a more sustainable production process using renewable biomass such as sawdust and açai pits (from a regional species of palm berries) to generate thermal energy for the kilns.

By supporting local communities and generating jobs, the project is also contributing to sustainable development in the region. The engagement in socio-economic improvements earned the project a sought-after Social Carbon (SC) label, in addition to the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS).

Project achievements



Socio-economic impact:

- A monthly donations system for a local school is being set up by the factories to strengthen education and social development.
- Both ceramic works provide benefits to employees, such as medical care and glasses for employees with sight problems.
- The ceramic factories introduced a commission program to reward very productive and hard working employees, and during Christmas every employee receives a financial bonus, which is uncommon in Brazil's ceramic industry.
- Individual protective equipment is supplied to all employees and its use strictly enforced and controlled, which is not common in Brazil's ceramic industry.
- One of the brickworks makes periodic donations to the local communities to improve general living conditions.
- The Telha Forte ceramic makes monthly donations to "Gente Livre", a Rehab Centre against drug addictions, to tackle this wide-spread problem among the poorer parts of Brazil.
- The Telha Forte ceramic participates in a tradition called "Livro de Ouro" ("Gold Book") which involves financial donations to graduates from a local university.

Environmental impact:

- Both ceramic works have implemented a 'Plan of Control' of environmental impacts to further minimise their environmental footprint.
- Residues from the production process are donated to local communities and are used for patching up roads.
- Ashes from the brick-firing process are reused in production to avoid air, water and soil pollution.

Checklist Project 301 294



SOCIALCARBON® VCS | VERIFIED CARBON STANDARD

✓ Additionality and permanence:	according to the rules of the VCS and Social Carbon
✓ 3 rd party validated::	by TÜV Nord
✓ Transparency:	provided by Markit Environmental Registry
✓ Annual CO ₂ reduction:	58,000 tCO ₂ e
✓ Social and environmental benefits:	as documented in our database
✓ Marketing material:	high resolution pictures available

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