



Sustainability action · Project Forest and Land Use

Restoration of degraded areas and reforestation in Cáceres and Cravo Norte, Colombia

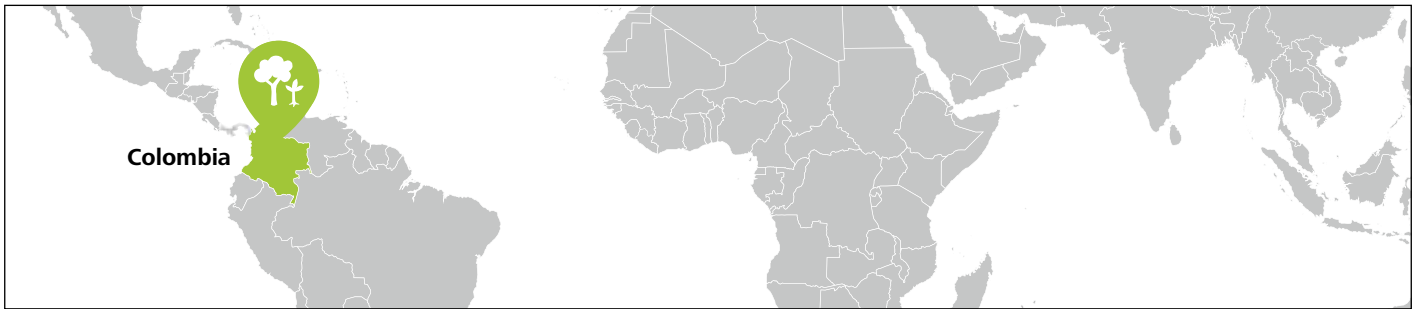
This pioneering forestry project entails permanent reforestation and long-term monitoring of parts of Colombia's northeast and northwest, with a particular focus on biodiversity. The project seeks to promote sustainable management of forest resources in areas degraded by cattle grazing and mining, in a manner that fosters natural regeneration.

Project

Devastated by years of open cast alluvial gold mining, illegal coca plantations, and destructive livestock farming practices in the remote Colombian regions of Cáceres, Antioquia and Cravo Norte, Arauca, the survival of the natural capital and biodiversity of these two important tropical forest regions hung precariously on the edge. In opposition to the common practice of reforestation through planting monocultures for tree plantations, this project

aimed at restoring a real forest, with a focus on re-establishing its rich ecosystem. About twenty local tree species were planted and by today already led to the settling of another 117 plants and a multitude of animals in the now restored and still growing forest. The project also led to new habitat for endangered animals such as rare turtles, parrots, and critically endangered monkeys. The project observes basic principles of sustainable forest management, with 9640 already purchased, surveyed and mapped, in Cravo Norte and 1266 ha planted in Cáceres. The project has been validated according to the Climate, Community, and Biodiversity Standard (CCB) which is currently the strictest standard for forestation projects. It stands for outstanding biodiversity benefits, and the integration of local people within the project. For registration and subsequent reduction of the certificates, and to prohibit double use of the credits, the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) has been equally applied.

Checklist	Additionality and permanence	3 rd party verified	Transparency	Annual CO ₂ -reduction	Social and environmental benefits	Marketing material
Project 300 658	According to the rules of the VCS and CCBS	By Environmental Services Inc.	Provided by Markit Environmental Registry	58,000 tCO ₂ e	As documented in our database	High resolution pictures available



Location

The project is located in the Orinoquia and Andean region, two unconnected regions in Colombia. Illegal gold prospecting, coca plantations and unsuitable agricultural practices have heavily degraded both areas. Arauca's savannas on the border to Venezuela, far away from major urban centers, host vulnerable gallery forests and several endangered species. The distinct Andean forests in Antioquia accommodate a variety of species from the mountains all the way to the Caribbean coast.

Project achievements

Socio-economic impact

- Local inhabitants greatly profit from this project's implementation. About 150 jobs have been created to establish a vital alternative for a region that has long depended on illegal and heavily destructive activities.
- The project will also introduce new, ecologically sensitive methods for battling mosquitoes to replace the practice of oil-poisoning breeding ponds.

Environmental impact

- Through the reclaiming and restoration of the project area, regional soil and water conditions improved significantly.
- New habitat is created for endangered species, including rare turtles and monkeys, and numerous kinds of parrots, to name a few only.
- The project serves as inspiration and proof that the challenging approach of reforestation with no monocultures but mixed native species to develop efficient carbon credits actually works – in both an economic and ecologic sense.
- The project setup a seed bank to preserve the genetic diversity and biodiversity of local plant species.

