



Sustainability action · Project Forest and Land Use

Natural rubber tree plantation, Guatemala

This project is designed to promote sustainable development and alleviate pressures on tropical forestlands by establishing natural rubber tree plantations.

Project

The project is establishing rubber tree plantations in an overall project boundary of 2,300 hectares of pastureland degraded by traditional cattle grazing. The species planted will be *Hevea brasiliensis*. Direct planting began in 2007 and will continue through 2013. The planting area excludes already vegetated areas within project boundary such as creeks, bordering vegetation, and other patches of vegetation.

The main goal of this project is to create a model of sustainable competitiveness, unique of its kind worldwide, in the natural rubber sector which serve as a model for further restoration in the area. This project are both a financial and best practice model that integrates income from rubber products as well as carbon through proper technical management.

In addition to its development according to the robust VCS carbon standard, the project has been designed according to the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standard for responsible forest management. This project is the first forestry VCS project registered in the Americas

Checklist	Additionality and permanence	3 rd party verified	Transparency	Annual CO ₂ reduction	Social and environmental benefits	Marketing material
Project 301 530	According to the rules of the VCS and FSC	By Rainforest Alliance	Provided by APX Registry	46,000 tCO ₂ e	As documented in our database	Pictures available



Location

The project is located in two regions of Guatemala, near the Pacific coast, typified by its tropical climate, and close to the Atlantic coast.

Project achievements

Socio-economic impact

- This project generated more than 500 permanent jobs and reduces dependence on temporal or unstable work
- Improvements in infrastructure done within the farms and to improve production help nearby communities by providing better roads and access
- The project invests on improving livelihoods a conditions of local houses and school repairs

Environmental impact

- The regional biodiversity and wildlife benefit from the protection of their habitat
- Reforestation will improve water and soil quality, which has been degraded for many years
- Most farms includes areas of natural reserves serves as buffer areas and biological corridors
- Plantations enhances the degraded landscape's aesthetic appeal with rubber trees, originally from the tropical forests of America, creating a more beautiful landscape

