Portel-Pará REDD forest protection, Brazil

This REDD forest conservation project is safeguarding a huge area of rainforest in the Amazon region from being cut down for cattle pasture.

Location

This REDD project is located in the state of Pará in the North of Brazil, in the Eastern Amazon rainforest. The project saves about 150,000 ha of old forest in the Melgaçao and Portel municipalities, between Xingu and Anapu rivers, both direct tributaries to the Amazon. In this area, 63% of the rainforest has already been lost. There are no indigenous people settlements in the project area.

Project

Deforestation is one of the main drivers of climate change, responsible for about 15% of global emissions. The world's largest rainforest, in the Amazon, has suffered a lot from deforestation, with most of already destroyed Amazon rainforest cleared for pasture. The identified baseline scenario of the project is (mostly unplanned) deforestation for agriculture and cattle ranching, facilitated by land speculation and increasing access to the forest resulting from illegal logging. Evidence of this baseline scenario was observed during the verification unit's site visit: pioneer roads in the forest were clearly visible to the audit team, and evidence of logging (stumps, road construction, transport of logs by river) was seen firsthand. The Portel-Pará REDD project will avoid further fragmentation of the forest and resulting biodiversity loss.

The project participants are also investing into sustainable social development to enable long term benefits for the communities involved, allowing the local population alternative ways of income from non-destructive forest use. Secure land tenure (that rise respect for the forst reserve) in exchange for conservation pledges are given to existing inofficial communities within the project boundary, and advice and support for neighboring communities, which also enhances livelihoods and food security. This includes, among others, improved manioc flour production processes, a common source of income for the local *riberhinos* smallholders. In addition, fuel-efficient cooking stoves are distributed to households to reduce firewood consumption.

Locals found work as forest scouts and biodiversity monitoring aides, in environmental education and participatory conservation.

Project achievements

Socio-economic impact:

- Teaching of new agroforestry practices leads to an improvement in local families' nutrition.
- More efficient technologies to produce farinha (manioc flour) have been introduced to save time and firewood consumption.
- Many local smallholders can now earn additional income from forest monitoring and similar project-linked activities.
- The Leakage Management Area (LMA, reaching out 3 km from rivershores) encompasses areas where the population carries out fundamental activities to cover their daily needs in relation to food, fuel, construction materials, etc. The project won't prevent locals from continuing their food-gathering activities in the area, as long as such activities are carried out non-commercially. (e.g. harvest manioc, castanha do Pará, açaí palm trees, etc.).
- Secured land tenure allows locals to lead their lives in line with forest protection, without having to turn to destructive forest use.

Environmental impact:

- Several endangered native species (according to the *International Union for Conservation of Nature*) are being protected under the project activity.

Checklist Project 301 579

✓ Additionality and permanence:	according to the rules of the VCS and CCBS (Gold level)
✓ 3rd party validated::	by DNV
✓ Transparency:	provided by Markit Environmental Registry
✓ Social and environmental benefits:	as documented in our database
✓ Marketing material:	high resolution pictures available

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