



Suruí Forest Carbon Project, Brazil

This unique and pioneering project protects and restores an area of the Amazon rainforest that is under intense deforestation pressure, while also helping to preserve the autonomy and cultural and territorial heritage of the local Suruí people.

Location



The project is located in the *Sete de Setembro Indigenous Reserve*, which straddles Brazil's Rondônia and Mato Grosso states. The reserve lies within a broader area known as the "Arc of Deforestation" due to its status as one of the most deforested regions of the Amazon. In this area vast amounts of rainforest have been logged and then cleared for conversion to agriculture.

Project



Deforestation is one of the main drivers of climate change, responsible for about 15% of global emissions. The deforestation of the Brazilian rainforest is not only destroying biodiversity and contributing to climate change, but also having a devastating effect on indigenous people's livelihoods.

This pioneering project was developed by the Paiter Suruí people who live in the project area, an indigenous community of roughly 1,300 members who were first contacted less than 50 years ago. In the past the Suruí had allowed much of their land to be logged and over time converted to pasture. However, with this project they are now able to preserve and restore their land and natural resources, whilst at the same time generating income, improving their quality of life and preserving their traditional culture.



The project involved the establishment of a forest conservation strategy that protects 13,000 hectares of tropical rainforest, and generates income from sustainable uses of the forest including carbon stock management and carbon credit sales, and commercialisation of non-timber forest products such as Brazil nuts and aquaculture.

The project is extremely valuable from a biodiversity perspective, with large numbers of rare and endemic species of animals, birds, butterflies and plants living in the protected area. The project is also unique for its strong community focus – particularly the fact that it has been conceived, developed and managed from the outset by the Suruí people themselves with their own long term interests at the heart of the project design.

The project's exceptional community and biodiversity benefits have enabled it to achieve accreditation under the Climate Community and Biodiversity Standard (CCB), with Gold Level certification for biodiversity.

Project achievements



Socio-economic impact:

- More than 30 local people are directly employed by the project
- Forest monitoring and surveillance activities have involved hiring, equipping, and training Suruí forest rangers.
- The supply chains of non-timber forest products and agricultural crop growing techniques are being improved, guaranteeing increased income for the communities involved.
- The Suruí's traditional culture has been revitalized, with a focus on recovering traditional activities which had a low impact on forest resources.
- The project promotes not only technical development but also the social organization and strengthening of local communities and associations by coupling traditional knowledge with new expertise.
- Quality of life has been improved in the Indigenous Territory through first-aid training for community health workers.
- The local communities have benefited from additional training in activities such as fundraising, project development and management, tourism, fish production, fire management and local forest nursery establishment.
- An indigenous marketing logo is being developed in order to distinguish the indigenous products in local and national markets, to help increase sales volumes and returns.
- The Suruí people have organized a program with the Federal Institute of Rondônia to train indigenous environmental agents to transmit environmental knowledge regarding natural resource use. In addition, the Suruí People are in discussions with the Federal University of Rondônia regarding a "political and pedagogical project" for the indigenous university.

Environmental impact:

- The project provides extremely high biodiversity benefits by preserving the forest and its fauna and flora. In particular it protects habitat for 3 threatened species, 7 near-threatened species and 161 vulnerable species. These include the Giant Armadillo, Giant River Otter, Grey Woolley Monkey, Jaguar, Brazilian Tapir, and many others. 30 rare fungi have also been identified, some even new to science.
- The project has also led to a significant decrease in poaching (hunting and fishing) by non-indigenous outsiders, which was previously a frequent occurrence in the project area.
- The establishment of sacred areas, where hunting is also prohibited for Paiter Suruí, further reduces pressure on many species of mammals and birds, and helps animal populations to regenerate.
- Training has been provided for environmental workers to monitor biodiversity and identify and prevent possible exploitation of the territory's natural resources.

Checklist Project 301 590



✓ Additionality and permanence:	according to the rules of the VCS and CCBS (Gold level)
✓ 3 rd party validated:	by Rainforest Alliance
✓ Transparency:	provided by Markit Environmental Registry
✓ Social and environmental benefits:	as documented in our database

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