



Sustainability action · Project Forest and Land use

Reforestation, Panama

The project area spans several provinces of Panama. Former fallow and degraded pastureland is reforested with mainly native tree species and turned into ecologically valuable mixed forests.

Project

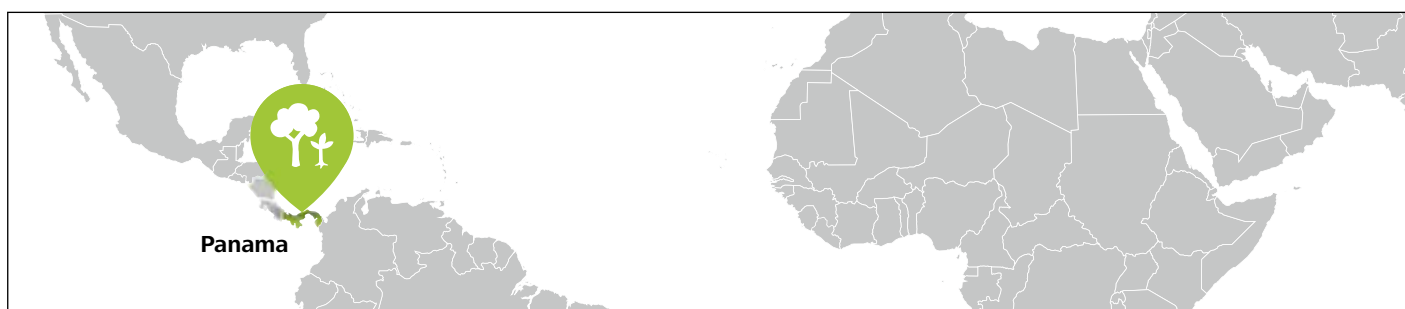
The project aims to combine sustainable timber and cacao production with the protection of biodiversity and ecosystem restoration. Sustainable management creates employment opportunities and ensures knowledge-transfer in close collaboration with local indigenous communities.

On the project areas, formerly fallow and degraded pasture land is reforested with mostly native tree species and turned into mixed forests. Parts of the areas are used for the fair production of organic

cocoa. Due to its sustainable management, the project combines environmentally friendly timber and cocoa production with biodiversity protection and ecosystem restoration.

This project is one of the worldwide first Gold Standard forestry projects; moreover, the cocoa areas are the very first Gold Standard agroforestry areas. In addition, the project area is certified by the FSC® (Forest Stewardship Council®) and the cocoa areas are UTZ certified.

Checklist	Additionality and permanence	3 rd party verified	Transparency	Social and environmental benefits	Marketing material
Project 301 717	To the rules of The Gold Standard and FSC®	By SCS Global Service	Provided by Markit Environmental Registry	As documented in our database	High resolution pictures available



Location

Panama bridges two continents and is located between Costa Rica and Colombia. It is one of the world's regions with the highest diversity of animals and plants. The project is located in the provinces of Darien, Veraguas and Panamá. The project areas are divided among several fincas, which are all managed according to the same forestry management plan.

Project achievements

Socio-economic impact

- Direct employment opportunities have been generated for about 150 local people for project operations such as scouting, fire prevention measures, nutritional garden establishment and water pump maintenance.
- Integrated capacity building and environmental education programmes.
- Sustainable sources of income: sale of certified tropical timber, carbon credits, cocoa and seed materials.
- School fee subsidies are available through the project for the poorest quarter of the local population.
- The commercialization of certified tropical timber, carbon credits, cacao and seed materials create sustainable sources of income for the local population.
- All employees receive a wage above the legal minimum, including health insurance and a pension fund. Furthermore, they receive additional optional benefits such as a life insurance, an internal credit programme, training and further education.

Environmental impact

- High share of native tree species protected.
- New habitats for trees and plants.
- New corridors for migratory species due to afforestation on different fincas.
- Erosion control and water protection.
- Through the high percentage of native species and the reforestation of mixed cultures, an ecosystem is created, which offers new habitats for animals as well as plants.
- The reforestation areas serve as bridges for wandering animals seeking new habitats.

