



south pole
group



Sustainability action · Project Forest and Land use

Bikin Forest Tiger REDD+ Project, Russian Federation

Permanent protection of otherwise logged Bikin Forest and conservation of a natural forest area serving as habitat for Amur tigers and Snow leopards.

Project

The Bikin forest is absolutely unique in the world as it is not only home of one of the last remaining populations of the endangered Amur Tiger (Siberian Tiger), numbering between 450 and 500, and other vulnerable species such as Asian black bear or Siberian musk deer. It also one of the last outstanding examples of a large, still intact and species-rich natural Korean Pine Broadleaved forests.

The project has to overall goal to mitigate climate change due to securing the last virgin forests in Bikin River valley as natural carbon storage. The project protects the forest from large scale logging operations and by sustaining the traditional life of the local communities. Wood and forest products are the fifth largest

source of Russian export earnings. However many operations within the forest sector are seen as illegal by international NGO's, with estimates of illegal timber harvesting in Russia to be at least 30 percent, reaching 50 percent in some areas. Through illegal logging large forest areas are destroyed and GHG are released.

The project is ensuring the conservation of over 460,000 hectares of virgin forest. The woods in the Bikin Valley form the last unbroken primal forest in an exceptionally species-rich mixed woodland. Subarctic and temperate flora and fauna meet here. The project area features a unique ecosystem hoisting at least 12 endangered and at least 14 endemic species.

This is the first REDD+ project worldwide developed under the auspices of UNFCCC using the existing Joint implementation (JI) mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol. These revenues will ensure the long-term conservation of the virgin forest around the Bikin River and the population of Amur tigers.

Checklist	Additionality and permanence	3 rd party verified	Transparency	Annual CO ₂ -reduction	Social and environmental benefits	Marketing material
Project 301 718	According to the rules of the UNFCCC	By TÜV SÜD	Provided by Markit Environmental Registry	156,438 tCO ₂ e	As documented in our database	Pictures available



Location

The project is located in the province of Primorsky in the Russian Far East, bordering China and North Korea. The project area is itself located in the middle portion of the Bikin river in the Pozharskii District of the Primorskii Province. The Bikin area is one of the last intact, large scale watersheds not only in the Russian Far East but also in the Northern Hemisphere.

Project achievements

Socio-economic impact

- Long-term investments of carbon credits help the indigenous Bikin population to protect the forest concession and thereby preserve their livelihoods.
- Development of eco-tourism and scientific tourism
- Twelve Rangers are employed make sure there is no illegal logging or poaching
- With the help of the project, the native inhabitants have been able to purchase special rights of use for non-wood products.

Environmental impact

- Protecting the project area from logging will grant the Amur Tiger intact and untouched habitat in the very long run.
- Funding of the Air Forest Protection Service involving in aerial patrolling of the territory and localization of fires
- Sustainable forest management is ensured by a new forest inventory, development plan for the forest and ethnological expertise of the project
- Sustainable use of non-timber forest resources
- Tigers are directly threatened by poaching to meet the demand for tiger parts for use in Traditional Chinese Medicine
- The most significant long-term threat to Amur Tigers is probably the loss of habitat and the related decrease in prey due to human population pressure. Logging operations, forest fires, the development of new agricultural areas and the construction of roads destroy the livelihood of the Siberian tiger and of its prey
- Six endangered species inhabit the project area; Siberian Tiger, Blakiston's Fish-owl, Far East Stork, Baer's Pochard, Chinese Merganser and Red-crowned Crane