



Sustainability action · Project Forest and Land use

Scolet'te REDD+ Project, Mexico

Scolet'te ("the tree that grows" in Mayan Tzeltal language) is a community-based sustainable land use project focused on reforestation and forest management.

Project

The aim is to ensure that carbon is reliably sequestered for the long term in systems that are economically viable, and socially and environmentally responsible. The project includes procedures for internal monitoring and external verification. The management systems are designed to be applicable in similar regions of Mexico and other developing countries. The project participants are small-scale farmers, forest dwellers and other land users with recognised land tenure or user rights. The participants create sustainable

land management plans ('plan vivos') by combining existing land uses and agricultural activities with additional activities such as the creation, restoration and protection of indigenous forests and woodlands, as well as agroforestry initiatives. The project is managed by a national NGO Fondo Bioclimático and coordinated by AMBIO, a Mexican non-profit environmental co-operative. Carbon benefits are owned by individual producers or community producer groups who have enrolled with projects by submitting and having their plan vivos approved, and entering into sale agreements with the project coordinator. It is possible to trace carbon benefits back to individual plan vivos. Producers are accountable for their performance under their management plans and only receive payments when targets are met. The Scolet'te programme supports 1,235 producers and benefitting approximately 2,450 families. In March 2011, Scolet'te was recognised by Iniciativa Mexico Awards.

Checklist	Additionality and permanence	3 rd party verified	Transparency	Social and environmental benefits	Marketing material
Project 301 766	To the rules of VCS	By SGS	Provided by Markit Environmental Registry	As documented in our database	High resolution pictures available



Location

This project is located in the central and northern Chiapas and northeast Oaxaca, southern Mexico. The project area covers numerous ecological and cultural regions including Tojolobal and Tzotzil communities in the highland and Tzeltal and Lacandon communities in the lowland regions.

Project achievements

Socio-economic impact

- The project supports 51 communities and 2,450 families
- 205 efficient cook stoves were constructed in the beneficiaries' homes
- Cook stoves improves livelihoods in rural areas throughout a lower fuel-wood consumption and a cleaner air quality
- Poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihoods through improved agricultural productivity, income from timber, fruits, nuts and non-timber forest products, payment for ecosystems services in Mexico
- Improved social capital through participatory planning, capacity-building, transfer of knowledge and skills, strong community structures, reduced dependency on aid.

Environmental impact

- Reforestation of open pine/ oak forests on the perimeter of arable fields and pastures for the production of timber and other products without adversely affecting crop yields
- Enrichment planting of high value native timber trees into coffee plantations diversify coffee revenues with timber revenues and provide shade to improve coffee yields
- Strengthening of protected areas
- Biodiversity maintenance
- Watershed protection
- Soil stabilisation
- Regulation of regional micro-climates
- Protection and restoration of endangered Tropical Montane Cloud Forest
- Expansion plan being developed for creation of buffer zone around El Ocote
- Biosphere Reserve - a biodiversity hotspot that is home to over 2,000 plant and 5,500 animal species

