

Mataven Forest Conservation Colombia

Protecting indigenous land rights and avoiding emissions through participatory forest management



Since 2013, this forest protection initiative has implemented participatory forest management, conservation, and forest recovery, while ensuring sustainable livelihoods for local indigenous communities. Over its 30 year lifetime, the project is expected to prevent the emission of more than 108 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent.

The Context

The Matavén project responds to the right of indigenous groups to own their traditional lands, in combination with the need to ensure environmental protection and conservation of forests within 17 indigenous reservations in the high plains of the Colombian Amazon jungle.

The Project

This project is located in the Colombian Orinoco region and is bordered by the Vichada, Guaviare and Orinoco Rivers, and Creek Chupabe. Its aim is to fulfil the needs and interests of Matavén jungle indigenous communities, whilst managing and protecting its lands and rainforests. The Matavén project establishes measures to reduce ecosystem vulnerability by implementing self-sustaining production systems and introducing a carbon funding mechanism. Conservation activities are promoted amongst local indigenous communities, by introducing sustainable forest management, ecotourism, handicraft enterprises, and technical training.

The Benefits

Forest management activities protect crucial habitat for jungle species like the pink Amazon River dolphin, grey dolphin, and the howler monkey. Indigenous communities also benefit – receiving health and educational benefits, as well as food, housing, and employment opportunities generated in project operations. Protecting the Matavén rainforest ecosystem helps to regulate the microclimate – and will avoid the emission of over 108 million tonnes of CO₂ over 30 years.

Jungle species such as the pink Amazon River dolphin (*Inia geoffrensis*), the gray dolphin (*Sotalia fluviatilis*) and the howler monkey (*Alouatta seniculus*) are protected.



Poverty Alleviated

by providing jobs in forest management jobs and income opportunities



600 Indigenous Guards

patrolling the project territory, enforcing surveillance, control and forest monitoring



3,622,000 tCO₂e

reduced on average annually, contributing to global climate change mitigation efforts



1,000,000+ ha

of land and rainforest area within the abundantly biodiverse Matavén jungles of the Colombian Amazon protected by the project

For more information on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, please visit: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

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