



GUANARE REFORESTATION URUGUAY

Forest plantations to rehabilitate degraded grasslands



Reforestation of degraded grasslands improves soils quality, reduces carbon dioxide and by creating a sustainable timber industry, creates quality employment opportunities and strengthens the Uruguayan economy.

The Context

Rural poverty is a major social problem in Uruguay and the area of this project is particularly affected by a lack of development. The region around the project site is characterised by the livestock industry, with very low employment, precarious working conditions and reduced opportunities for women and youth. In addition, the overgrazing of grasslands in combination with increasing storms means that soils in the project area are subjected to erosion and degradation, impacting on the biodiversity of the area.

The Project

The Guarané Forest plantations project involves rehabilitating land on four separate sites previously under grassland for more than 300 years. This degraded land was expected to continue to degrade in the absence of the project. Forests of primarily eucalyptus species are planted and managed, with occasional thinning for wood production. These forests remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in different carbon pools. The main objective of the project activity is to supplement the wood industry, facilitate land restoration and address climate change by sequestering carbon through afforestation.

The Benefits

The creation of employment is one of the main social benefits of the project and it is expected to increase employment levels in this rural area of Uruguay tenfold. The project will also contribute to the development of the region by contracting small family businesses, increasing exports, incorporating modern technology into the timber industry and developing new production chains. These elements combined contribute to the eradication of rural poverty.

The project is operated by Harvard University and has a program for applied research, continuously testing various practices in order to achieve continuous improvement over time.



**Photos courtesy of Forestal Atlántico Sur*



JOBS

created in land management and timber harvesting, boosting the local economy



127,416
tCO₂e

on average reduced annually through the carbon sequestration of trees



20,877
ha

of degraded land reforested, increasing biodiversity in the region



1,100
seedlings

planted per hectare, improving soils and decreasing erosion

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

Official name: 'Guanaré' Forest Plantations on degraded grasslands under extensive grazing | **UNFCCC/markit/VCS link:** http://www.vcsprojectdatabase.org/#/project_details/959 | **UNFCCC/markit/VCS ID:** 959