



# ENVIRA AMAZONIA TROPICAL FOREST CONSERVATION BRAZIL

**Reducing emissions, protecting biodiversity  
and empowering communities**



*This project in the Brazilian State of Acre reduces emissions by directly protecting tropical rainforests in the Amazonian Basin from planned deforestation. The project also reduces deforestation in the wider region by implementing social projects and promoting alternative sustainable economic opportunities amongst communities, encouraging environmental stewardship and biodiversity protection.*



### The Context

From the 1980s onwards, the paving of major east-west corridor, Highway BR-364, greatly increased regional market access to the Brazilian State of Acre, leading to increased property values and the expansion of cattle ranching. A major detrimental consequence has been deforestation, as environmentally damaging human activities encroach on the Amazon Basin.

### The Project

60 km southeast of Feijó town in Acre, the Envira Amazonia project runs along either side of the Jurupari River in the Amazon Basin on land formerly owned by businessmen, Duarte Jose do Couto Neto and Bento Ferraz Pacheco. In 2009, the pair sold 200,000 hectares of land to forest management experts, and the Envira Amazonia REDD project was established to sequester carbon by preserving the 39,300 hectares of forests within the area previously slated for deforestation and conversion to pastures. Local communities are an essential component of the project, which, as well as focussing on tropical forest conservation, runs a combination of social and environmental programmes.

### The Benefits

As well as sequestering carbon, the Envira Amazonia project also establishes alternative sustainable economic opportunities for local communities that promote environmental stewardship, and protect biodiversity. Community meetings, teaching courses and other educational initiatives, for example, are run out of the project headquarters. Moreover, rainforest conservation itself protects forest ecosystem services – like air and water filtration, water and nutrient cycle regulation, flood protection, as well as the intrinsic, spiritual and cultural value tropical forests create for communities.

**The Envira Amazonia project honours the life of Chico Mendes, a Brazilian rubber tapper from the State of Acre who sustainably harvested sap to make rubber and passionately defended the rainforests from those looking to profit from land clearing**



#### Health centre and dental clinic

built, improving local community health and increasing life expectancies



#### Teaching courses

as well as education and community meetings are run out of the project headquarters



#### Sustainable economic enterprises

for açai berry and medicinal plant sales established by the project and run by local community members



**1,259,646**  
**tCO<sub>2</sub>e**

mitigated on average annually by the project



**39,300**  
**ha**

of tropical rainforests are protected from deforestation, and a biodiversity monitoring plan has been set up

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

**Official name:** The Envira Amazonia Project - A Tropical Forest Conservation Project in Acre, Brazil

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