

Lacándon Forests for Life Guatemala

Conserving endangered ecosystems to
enrich the remarkable biodiversity



Situated in the Sierra de Lacandón National Park in northern Guatemala, Lacandón Forests for Life conserves the tropical rainforest and its rich biodiverse ecosystems by working closely with local communities. The habitat of endangered species, including the jaguar and the tapir is protected while delivering an exceptional number of community benefits that include improving access to: electricity; schools; skill training; safe water and create enhanced opportunities for women. On top of this, improved forest management and prevention of deforestation increase carbon sequestration, which contributes to global climate change mitigation efforts.

The Context

The Sierra del Lacandón National Park, sits within the Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) Selva Maya Corridor, which contains the second most extensive tract of continuous tropical rainforest in the Americas after the Amazon. However due to encroaching settlements, forest fires, poor management of natural resources, illegal logging and agricultural activities, the rate of deforestation is high.

The Project

The Lacandón Forests for Life project reduces deforestation by controlling illegal timber extraction and assuring the legality of land use through sustainable forest management. The project also aims to address the cause of deforestation by improving the livelihoods of communities located within the National Park and surrounding areas. This includes the strengthening of governance through cooperatives, supporting sustainable economic livelihoods through technical workshops, and increasing environmental awareness through training.

The Benefits

Capacity building is a key aspect of this project, and women in particular benefit from governance, the development of a non-timber forest products value chain and environmental education. Surrounding communities enjoy a strengthened economy and improved environmental governance with support from project implementation. Sustainable forestry activities (such as conservation management, agroforestry and reforestation) provide a source of income for local communities while conserving natural resources. The project promotes health, family planning and environmental awareness through educational programs.

The project provides refuge to the near-threatened **Jaguar**, the endangered **Tapir** and the threatened **White-lipped Pecari**



2,121 people

benefiting from environmental training provided by project



14 primary school

have been established in each community by 2014



45+ workshops

in forest fire, environmental education, health and community organisation



390+ women

participating in project activities through workshops



2,900+ people

provided with access to safe drinking water



9 communities

now have access to electricity



5 high skilled

local workers employed through the project



238,000 tCO₂e

mitigated on average annually, through sustainable forest management and prevented deforestation



Habitat of 16 flora and fauna species

classed as vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered is protected in the project area



206,268 ha

are currently being regenerated, improving the biodiversity of the area

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

Official name: Lacandón - Forest for life REDD+ project | **Registry link:** https://www.vcsprojectdatabase.org/#/project_details/1541 | **Registry ID:** 1541

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