



Forest and biodiversity protection, Belize

This forest conservation project in Central America combines climate, environmental and social benefits.

Location



The forest protection project lies in the small Central American state of Belize, bordering the Caribbean Sea. Belize's abundance of terrestrial and marine species, and its diversity of ecosystems give it a key place within the globally significant Mesoamerican Biological Corridor.

Project



The project, certified on CCBA Gold level for outstanding biodiversity features, addresses both pressing environmental issues in the region, and global warming. At the same time, it benefits the local population in a region suffering from economic problems, mostly by the generation of jobs and educational support to the young generation.

The project consists of tropical mixed broadleaf forest. Historically, the property was a source of pine lumber, and was run as a private production forest. The goal of the project is to protect the broadleaf forest component of the property as a carbon sink, maintain its biodiversity values, and enhance the local economic environment with sustainable livelihoods. In the absence of the project, the area would be converted to a large coffee farm with its adverse effects on soil, water, wildlife, and carbon storage capabilities.

Forest patrols and wildfire prevention measures are conducted to protect the area and its rich wildlife, with many vulnerable and endangered mammals and birds. Among them are jaguar, southern river otter, tapir, orange-breasted falcon, stygian owl, and ocelot.

Total carbon dioxide emission reductions are expected to exceed 345,000 tons over a 30-year period.

Project achievements



Socio-economic impact:

- The project supports local communities through job creation and educational opportunities.
- The community of the area is totally dependent on the livelihoods provided by the property. The project will provide jobs to monitor and protect the forest.
- Educational benefits are provided to the children of the Belizean staff working on the project.
- The second phase project will provide many more jobs and more educational benefits through forest restoration and fire protection activities.



Environmental impact:

- Through patrols and other measures, the project actively protects biodiversity from illegal hunting and habitat destruction, including species like the threatened tapir, ocelot, and southern river otter, and the vulnerable jaguar.
- Thanks to the avoided installation of the coffee farm, soil and water are protected from fertilizer and other harmful farm emissions. The project area is a component of the watershed that provides drinking water and aquatic habitats to a large part of Belize, and helping to protect this watershed is a key component of national and international plans to protect the Belize barrier reef and other valuable aquatic biodiversity.
- Research on large cats and rare birds that inhabit the area is planned for the second phase.
- In the second phase project, pine savannah habitats in the area devastated by fire and insect outbreaks will be restored.



Checklist Project 301 333



✓ Additionality and permanence:	according to the rules of the VCS and CCBS
✓ 3 rd party verified::	by Environmental Services Inc.
✓ Transparency:	provided by Markit Environmental Registry
✓ Lifetime CO ₂ reduction:	345,000 tCO ₂ e
✓ Social and environmental benefits:	as documented in our database
✓ Marketing material:	pictures available