



ArBolivia reforestation with smallholders, Bolivia

The ArBolivia project is working with smallholder farmers in the Bolivian Amazon to restore degraded forests and provide sustainable living conditions for the local communities.

Location



The project is working with farming co-operatives in the departments of Cochabamba and Santa Cruz, close to the National Parks of Carrasco and Isiboro Secure.

More than half of the Bolivian population belongs to various indigenous groups. Although natural resources are abundant in Bolivia, it is the poorest country in Latin America with the lowest levels of exports.

Project



Two thirds of Bolivia's population are extremely poor, with a major part of the population working in agriculture. After decades of adopting poor agricultural practices and without the capital to invest in a viable alternative, smallholders are still forced to continue destructive "slash and burn" methods in order to earn a living for their families.

The wider project incorporates a comprehensive land use programme including conservation, agro-forestry and silviculture. About 2,000 smallholders receive practical advice and support on all aspects of farm management, including land use, crop and stock selection, and marketing support. These measures are predicted to improve the standard of living of the local communities to a considerable degree.



1,500 hectares of trees have already been planted, with a target of 5,000 hectares. These comprise small, isolated parcels owned by roughly smallholders who belong to farmer co-operatives. A further 1,200 hectares will also be planted purely for conservation. Technical assistance is provided to the farmers so that they can derive a better income from their land as a whole and can also manage this in a more ecologically sustainable manner. Intercropping is encouraged so that farmers can cultivate both food crops and timber on the same plot of land, whilst predominantly native species of trees are used in a patchwork of different tree types.

The project is one of the worldwide first Gold Standard forestry projects, with issued Gold Standard VERs available.

Project achievements



Socio-economic impact:

- New jobs for the local population have been created in tree nurseries.
- The project activity tackles the multiple problems of poor land management, deforestation, coca growing and poverty, and is the culmination of many years of consultation between local co-operatives, regional and international development agencies and ecological consultants.
- The local population directly participates in the profits from the sale of carbon credits.
- Long-term economic perspectives for farmers and their families are being created.
- The project is raising awareness for the conservation of natural biotopes among the local population.
- Thanks to the project activity, modern sustainable forest management methods, and modern GIS and monitoring systems are made available to the involved communities.
- No land has been removed from the ownership of local people.

Environmental impact:

- Reforestation using predominantly 18 native tree species creates a healthy, natural ecosystem.
- New corridors for migratory species are being established due to afforestation on different farms.
- Reforestation and forest protection significantly improve erosion control and watershed protection.

Checklist Project 301 473



The Gold Standard®
Premium quality carbon credits

✓ Additionality and permanence:	according to the rules of the Gold Standard
✓ 3 rd party validated::	by Rainforest Alliance
✓ Transparency:	provided by Markit Environmental Registry
✓ Annual CO ₂ reduction:	16,000 tCO ₂ e
✓ Social and environmental benefits:	as documented in our database
✓ Marketing material:	high resolution pictures available