

Indonesia: Preventing deforestation in Rimba Raya Reserve



Certification:



Key Facts



Background

Since 1990, Indonesia has lost almost a quarter of its forest cover. Borneo's rainforests, like in many tropical areas, are under threat from timber cutting, mineral mining and the production of palm oil, pulp and rubber. The problem continues to worsen as cleared areas provide easy access to previously remote reaches of the forest. Easier access has also resulted in a growth in illegal wildlife trade, posing a further threat to the wildlife in the area. It has been estimated that an the equivalent area of a football field is deforested every minute.

The peat swamp forests in Borneo alone hold up to 70 times more carbon than the amounts emitted annually by burning fossil fuels across the globe. Therefore, the degradation of the forests can result in a drastic loss of carbon stocks. Furthermore, the area is extraordinarily rich in biodiversity and is home to hundreds of endangered species that are under threat from over exploitation.



The Project

The Rimba Raya Reserve is located in Borneo's southeast stretching almost 100 kilometers from North to South along the borders of Tanjung Puting National Park. The reserve covers around 64,000 hectares and is dedicated to the protection and preservation of many endangered species, most notably, the endangered Bornean Orangutan whose population has declined over 95% in the last century. To protect areas of the forest, land use rights must be attained for the land bordering the protected areas. So far, the project financing supports 13 community based initiatives ranging from water filtration to supporting a shrimp aquaculture co-operative.

Rimba Raya is the first REDD project to have earned Triple Gold Validation under the CCB Standard.

Location:
Borneo, Indonesia

Project type:
REDD+

Total emission reductions:
»» 3,500,000t CO₂ e p.a. ««

Project standard:
Verified Carbon Standard & CCBS

Project start date:
November 2008

Sustainable Development

By supporting this project you'll contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goals:



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

While focusing on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, all our projects also generate multiple co-benefits. These are supportive of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



No poverty

The project involves the local communities, creating income sources which involve sustainable management of forest resources. The project supports many initiatives such as the development of community chicken egg farms, a recycle bank and a tree plantation.



Good health and well-being

Project revenues support local medical infrastructure, including a vaccination program and a mobile clinic for people in very remote locations. This is important as rural access to healthcare is limited.



Gender equality

The project sponsors initiatives, in which women make up at least 75% of the co-operative membership. This allows women to gain significance outside of the household and help with jobs. Whilst only small-scale this can spark improvements to general attitudes towards women.



Reduced inequalities

The project supports rural communities in sourcing their own income. This creates jobs and sets up a base for small businesses and industries to develop. Furthermore, it makes rural areas less reliant on illegal activities such as poaching or logging.



Sustainable cities and communities

As part of the initiative, recycling projects have been developed. This not only helps to reduce waste, it also encourages future innovation of further recycling methods with other materials. This improves the attitude among communities towards their own environment.



Climate action

The reductions from preventing deforestation are impressive, saving a colossal 3,530,000t CO₂ p.a. Consequently, habitats are protected and destroyed areas are given the chance to recover and re-grow. Furthermore, by keeping trees alive, it allows more CO₂ to be absorbed creating a further reduction in the country's emissions.



Life on land

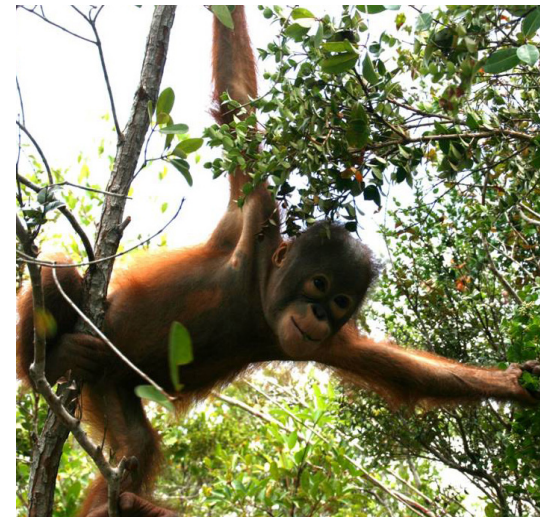
This forest conservation project protects habitats for many animal and plant species, many of which are threatened by extinction. The project increases regional awareness of the forest destruction and project revenues support science institutions, including the world-famous Orangutan Foundation International.



Technology brief – how it works

Carbon circulates within a cycle, consisting of the atmosphere, the plant, plant litter and the soil. Carbon dioxide drawn from the surrounding atmosphere is the main input of any plant's photosynthesis processes. The outputs are water, oxygen and carbohydrates. The latter are built into the plant's fibre thereby fixing carbon in the plant's biomass. Ultimately, the carbon re-enters the atmosphere from decaying biomass litter or soil respiration.

Deforestation breaks this cycle with multi-fold negative effects. First, burning biomass directly increases the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Secondly, it reduces the biosphere's absolute capacity to fix carbon. Thirdly, the removal of plant cover accelerates the rate at which carbon fixed in soils is respired into the atmosphere. Lastly, the erosion of soils impedes the long-term recovery of vegetation on degraded areas. This is a particularly challenging issue in tropical climates where soils are mostly poor in nutrients.



Project Standard



The Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) is a global standard for the validation and verification of voluntary carbon emission reductions. Emissions reductions from VCS projects have to be real, measurable, permanent, additional, unique, transparent, and third-party verified. Assessed against the background of the total volume of emission reductions, VCS is the globally leading standard for voluntary carbon offsets.



The Climate, Community & Biodiversity (CCB) Standards were launched in 2005 to foster development of, and investment in, site-based projects that deliver credible and significant climate, community and biodiversity benefits in an integrated, sustainable manner.

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