



Vichada Forest Restoration Colombia

Transforming fragile savannah lands
into biodiverse forests to combat
climate change

Located in the Orinoco river basin in Colombia, the Vichada Climate Reforestation project combines reforestation for sustainable timber production with biodiversity protection and ecosystem restoration. The resulting forests offer habitat for native plants and animals, enrich the soil, save and filter water, and help mitigate the greenhouse effect.



The Context

Situated nearby the Colombia–Venezuela border, the Vichada Climate Reforestation project is in an area that was previously a savannah and lacked investment due to its marginal, hard-to-reach location.

The Project

The project combines both reforestation and afforestation activities with biodiversity protection and ecosystem regeneration, ultimately transforming degraded savannah lands into close-to-nature forests that both produce high quality hardwoods and sequester large amounts of carbon. These forests offer a natural habitat for native wildlife, enrich the soil, save and filter water and help mitigate the greenhouse effect by acting as a carbon sink.

The Benefits

The Vichada Climate Reforestation project generates a range of significant environmental and socio-economic benefits. By mixing afforestation and reforestation activities, the project conserves remaining forests and promotes ecosystem interconnectivity by establishing ecological corridors. This improves biodiversity, and studies on the local flora have been developed through collaboration between regional NGOs. The project further protects natural resources, with trees shielding the soil from erosion to prevent flooding and optimise water quality. Where possible, minimal amounts of only the least harmful pesticides are used, softening the environmental impact of chemicals. Income from secure job opportunities with legal protections for workers helps alleviate local poverty, with leadership and development programs also offered to employees. The project is run by a multicultural team of men and women, and educates the community on climate change and the importance of sustainability activities. Community educational opportunities are further improved by capacity building programs in local schools.

Biodiversity conservation meets sustainable timber production to alleviate poverty and fight climate change in regional Colombia



80
new jobs

created, with secure working conditions for employees including minimum wage, health care and pension entitlements



51,000
tCO₂e

mitigated on average each year



13,205
ha

of planting area and 8,089 ha of forest conservation area



80 million
trees

planted from three main species (acacia mangium, eucalyptus and pine)

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

Official name: Vichada Climate Reforestation Project | **Registry link:** <https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/1806> | **Registry ID:** GS 4221

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