



BRAZIL: AVOIDED DEFORESTATION WITH FLORESTAL SANTA MARIA

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT ON 71,000 HECTARE OF NATIVE RAIN FOREST

EFFECTIVE PROTECTION OF THE ECOSYSTEM CERTIFIED BY FSC

KEY FACTS

The rural city of Colniza is located at the northwest of the state of Mato Grosso in the heart of the Amazon. The world's largest rainforest covers an area of about 8 million square kilometer, approximately 20 times the size of Germany. Over the last years forest clearance for agriculture, cattle ranching and illegal logging activities has been increasing rapidly, applying immense pressure on the diversity of flora and fauna.

Florestal Santa Maria owns the rights of use to an area of about 71,000 hectare. It is the only area in the municipality of Colniza that preserves all native forest and one of the very few locations in the country which implements sustainable forest management. Its practices meet the rigorous requirements of the international accredited Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

Florestal aims to promote improved forest protection to neighboring countries with similar areas. Thus Florestal Santa Maria combines the sustainable use of natural resources with the protection of the area from further negative environmental impacts. The protection of this vast area requires much effort; therefore the project would have never come to life without revenues from carbon finance.

SUSTAINABILITY BENEFITS

By protecting the forest area the natural ecosystem has the chance to regenerate itself and to create new habitats for flora and fauna.

Through the project activity, 330 direct and indirect jobs were created. Together with the local authority, Florestal Santa Maria supports the community members through educational measures and further training. Especially young people are trained in sustainable forest management.

Florestal Santa Maria works closely with local initiatives in measures for the prevention and combating of fires and overall security of the region.

Location:

Colniza (Mato Grosso), Brazil

Project type:

REDD

Project standard:

Verified Carbon Standard & FSC

Total emission reductions:

»» 1,000,000 t CO₂ e p.a. ««

Project start date:

April 2009

Validator:

Rainforest Alliance

Verifier:

Rainforest Alliance





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TECHNOLOGY BRIEF - HOW IT WORKS

Carbon circulates in 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 process. 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.



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