

Carbon reduction:
Reducing emissions from
deforestation and forest
degradation – REDD+

TAMBOPATA-
BAHUAJA

PERU

Tambopata-Bahuaja Biodiversity Reserve

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND
LAND-USE TRANSFORMATION WITH
LOCAL CACAO FARMERS



Project overview

The Tambopata-Bahuaja Biodiversity Reserve Project conserves critically threatened tropical rainforest within an internationally recognised biodiversity hotspot of the Peruvian Amazon. These lush forests provide habitat for a wide variety of rare and endangered species, such as the Giant River Otter and Blue-Headed Macaw. The project focuses on partnering with local farmers in the margins of the protected area to support their transition to sustainable cacao production. Through building a thriving local economy centered around sustainable land-use, the project is restoring degraded areas and relieving deforestation pressures on almost 600,000 hectares of critically threatened forest.

The project is certified under the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS project ID 1067) and the Climate, Community, and Biodiversity Standard (CCB) to the gold level for both biodiversity and for climate change adaptation. The Tambopata-Bahuaja Biodiversity Reserve Project is developed and implemented by AIDER, a leading Peruvian NGO with almost 30 years of specialised experience in environmental conservation and sustainable development in Peru.



TAMBOPATA - BAHUAJA

IMPACTS TO DATE

We require our project partners to measure the impact of their carbon projects across key criteria and then use performance indicators to track progress, ensuring they maximise their environmental and social impact.

SUSTAINABLE COMMODITIES

Fair Trade and Organic fine,
aromatic cacao; Brazil nuts

FAIR ECONOMIC RETURN:

€4.8m

contributed to local economy

LIVELIHOODS

300

farmers supported

CLIMATE

4.7

million tonnes of CO2
emissions avoided

INCLUSIVITY

30%

of jobs held by women

SUSTAINABLE ENTERPRISE

Developing a cacao
cooperative including
building a cacao
processing facility

ECOSYSTEMS

573,299

hectares

of threatened forest protected

SPECIES

30

threatened species protected
including the giant river otter, blue-
headed macaw and giant armadillo





The project area & its threats

The Tambopata–Bahuaja Biodiversity Reserve Project is located in Madre de Dios, a region in southeastern Peru in the Amazon Rainforest. The project area includes the Tambopata National Reserve and the Bahuaja Sonene National Park, whose landscapes are threatened by illegal mining, logging, ‘slash and burn’ agriculture, and infrastructure development.

Mining poses the greatest threat to this landscape. Large numbers of mostly small-scale miners use highly polluting technology, including mercury waste, that contaminates rivers and the local water supply. The proximity and expansion of major roads, such as the InterOceanic Highway, exacerbate the threat by facilitating access to mining opportunities in the forest. A number of social and environmental challenges are complicated by the competing forces of economic need and limited opportunities. Infrastructure development and migration are stimulated by natural resource extraction, but poverty rates remain high, pollution has increased, deforestation and forest degradation threaten biodiversity and habitat, and the health and well-being of the local and indigenous communities is under threat.



Climate change mitigation

The Tambopata–Bahuaja Biodiversity Reserve Project addresses the drivers of deforestation by supporting commercially viable cacao agroforestry systems and using climate finance to enable forest monitoring and stewardship. By demonstrating a scalable model of environmentally and socially sustainable land use, the project creates a productive barrier against encroaching threats to the region’s natural and human capital. The avoided deforestation as a result of the Tambopata–Bahuaja project has reduced global emissions by over 4.7 million tonnes of CO₂* to date. In 2015, Tambopata–Bahuaja won the UNFCCC Momentum for Change Award for innovation and excellence in tackling climate change.

**Up to date as of the most recent verification*



Sustainable enterprise & commodities

The project works collaboratively with farmers and communities to build a thriving, local economy for sustainably produced cacao. AIDER has developed the farmer-driven COOPASER cacao cooperative and cacao processing facility, and is working with over 300 farmers with land titles to transition their produce to cacao grown through agroforestry systems. This work has restored more than 1,300 hectares of degraded land and is also diversifying family incomes with multiple additional crops grown, such as Brazil nuts.

Small enterprises are crucial to creating positive change in rural communities, but many of them lack sufficient capacity or market connections to succeed and scale. AIDER provides COOPASER farmers with technical assistance, infrastructure for post-harvest management and a route-to-market. The cacao processing facility supports farmers to manage volumes, ensures quality control, enables farmers to obtain a greater value per hectare for their cacao and opens up access to international markets. To date, more than 400 tonnes of Fair Trade cacao has been exported by COOPASER.



Supporting local communities

Community engagement, empowerment and social inclusivity is essential to the long-term success of the project. Climate finance enables local communities to regain control of land-use practices and manage the long-term health of their landscape. Local communities, mostly small-scale farmers and three indigenous communities – Palma Real, Sonene and Infierno – play a pivotal role in the project's forest monitoring and in preventing illegal encroachment. These stakeholders have also spearheaded the development and management of the COOPASER farmers' cooperative. Critically, these farmers and communities ensure the integrity of the project locally which is key to the project's global climate impact. Through activities in partnership with local and indigenous peoples, 300 jobs have been supported, 30% of which are held by women.



A biodiversity hotspot

The Tambopata–Bahuaja Biodiversity Reserve Project protects 30 threatened species, including the giant armadillo, blue-headed macaw and giant river otter. The project area has been classified as an internationally recognised biodiversity hotspot, and climate finance funds critical work on the ground to conserve this highly valuable ecosystem.

In particular, project activities aim to:

- **Improve forest protection measures:** The project aims to strengthen surveillance activities within the Reserve to identify human influences and predict and prevent activities that degrade the forest, such as through employing rangers and constructing ranger stations.
- **Enable biological monitoring:** The project aims to support ecosystem monitoring, including through recording the health and activity of threatened species within the project area.
- **Support biological research:** The Reserve is located within an internationally recognised biodiversity hotspot, therefore the project aims to help coordinate and facilitate biological and conservation research and knowledge in partnership with both local and international research centres.

Project partners

The project is developed and implemented by the Asociación para la Investigación y Desarrollo Integral (AIDER), a local Peruvian NGO with almost 30 years of specialised experience in environmental conservation and sustainable development in Peru.



International recognition

UNFCCC Momentum for Change Award

Environmental Finance Deal of the Year

Equator Innovation Prize (second place)

External standards

The Tambopata-Bahuaja Biodiversity Reserve Project is certified under the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS project ID 1067) and the Climate, Community, and Biodiversity Standard (CCB) to the gold level for both biodiversity and for climate change adaptation.



THIS PROJECT ADVANCES MANY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

