



Foundation

Indigenous Carbon Case Studies

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Acknowledgements

- Introduction

Background

This collection of case studies highlights the lived experiences of Indigenous groups leading carbon credit projects around the world.

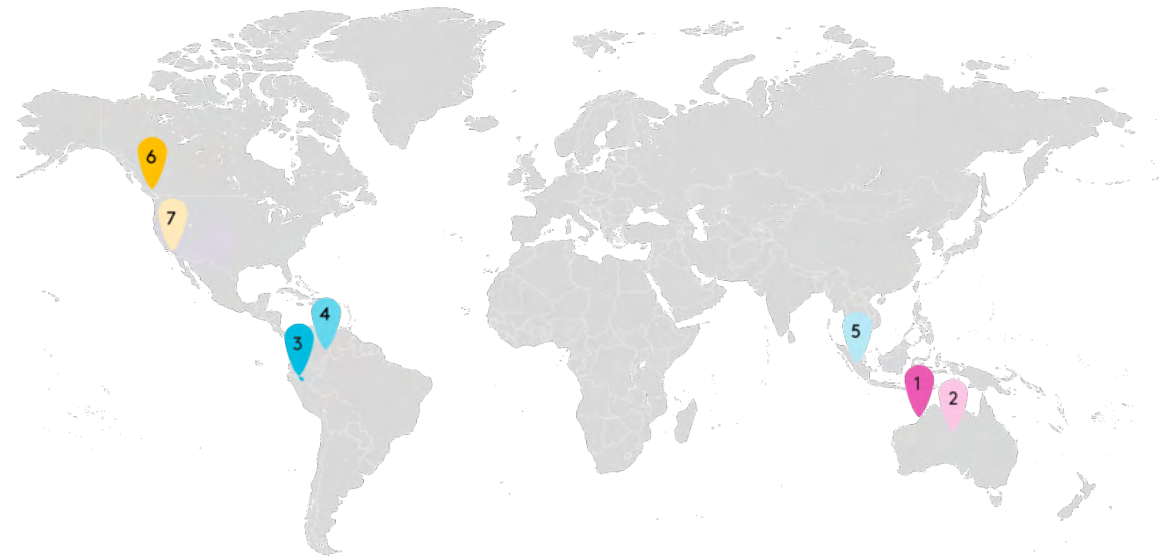
Pollination Foundation has gathered these case studies to address growing demand for best practice examples. They focus on community-led governance, equitable business models, and access and benefit-sharing (ABS) arrangements.

As the Nature-based-Solution (NbS) sector matures it is essential that the voices of those most directly engaged in the work - Indigenous communities - are front and centre. As a collective, these case studies offer valuable insights into how community designed carbon credit project models can deliver both fair and sustainable outcomes for local communities and the environment.

Case Study Location Map

Indigenous Carbon Projects

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- Case Studies

Indigenous fire management & carbon in the Kimberley (Australia)



OVERVIEW

Country:	Australia
Proponents:	Indigenous Traditional Owners
Project Type:	Savanna fire burning
Commenced:	2014 (started registering carbon businesses)
Governance:	The Kimberley Land Council (KLC) supports six Indigenous savanna burning carbon projects in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. These projects are 100% owned and controlled by Traditional Owner organisations. Project operations are conducted by Indigenous land management teams.

CASE STUDY HIGHLIGHTS

- The Kimberley Land Council facilitates the Kimberley Ranger Network as a regional network of Indigenous land managers across the Kimberley region of Western Australia.
- KLC provides training and capacity-building in on-ground and aerial prescribed early dry season burning, and facilitates the planning, registration and operation of Indigenous savanna burning carbon projects in the region.
- With the support of the KLC, Traditional Owners have registered six Indigenous carbon projects that generate Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) through the savanna burning methodology.
- Traditional owner groups receive 100% of revenue from credits, which are used to support continued project operations (including project management and sales support provided by KLC) and are reinvested to ongoing and improved fire management and co-benefits, such as Aboriginal employment, governance and capacity development.

Indigenous fire management & carbon in the Kimberley (Australia)



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Kimberley Land Council (KLC) was formed in 1978 as a political land rights organisation by Kimberley Aboriginal people. Now, the KLC is the peak Indigenous body in the Kimberley region of north-west Australia, working with Aboriginal people to secure native title recognition, conduct conservation and land management activities and develop cultural business enterprises.

Indigenous fire management involves the lighting of 'cool' fires by highly skilled Indigenous rangers and Traditional Owners in targeted areas at specific times of the year. The fires burn slowly, reducing fuel loads and creating fire breaks, resulting in a mosaic of burnt and unburnt country. The technique, which is based on Indigenous traditional knowledge and modern scientific practices, results in a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions released into the atmosphere. This abatement is measured and recognised under the Australian Government's Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) Scheme.

With the support of the KLC, Kimberley Traditional Owners have registered six Indigenous carbon projects under the scheme. These projects have now generated more than 1.5 million ACCUs from avoided greenhouse gas emissions.



Image credit: KLC

Indigenous fire management & carbon in the Kimberley (Australia)



IP&LC INVOLVEMENT IN DESIGN / IMPLEMENTATION

- Indigenous fire management is conducted by Indigenous ranger groups with the guidance of their representative organisations, known as Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs), and Traditional Owners who hold the right knowledge for their country.
- KLC fire officers work with PBCs and Indigenous rangers on fire planning, logistics and technical support for carbon project operations as Traditional Owner groups build capacity to manage fire programs independently.
- Indigenous carbon projects are 100 per cent owned by Traditional Owners who receive 100 per cent of the proceeds from carbon credit sales.

BENEFIT-SHARING HIGHLIGHTS

- Traditional Owner groups receive 100 per cent of revenue from credits, which are used to support continued project operations, as well as economic and community development in accordance with their self-determined aspirations.
- Once projects are generating income, KLC recovers some costs of ongoing project management and sales support services through fee-for-service agreements.

IMPACTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- In 2022-23, Indigenous fire management in the Kimberley avoided over 180,000 tonnes (carbon dioxide equivalent) of greenhouse gas emissions from fires and continues to deliver significant improvements in fire patterns across the region. Indigenous fire management also protects important cultural sites, supports the unique biodiversity of the region and provides opportunities for Traditional Owners to work on and care for country.
- Revenue generated from the sale of carbon credits supports continued fire management and carbon project operations, as well as Traditional Owner economic and community development aspirations.
- The KLC has a regional footprint and role that delivers policy and market expertise. This has led to the creation of opportunities, a reputation for high integrity carbon projects, respected technical expertise in developing and managing projects and trusted experience in delivering collaborations and partnerships.
- Looking to the future, the KLC's planned establishment of an Indigenous Carbon Developer is set to drive premium project outcomes for Indigenous groups stacking new carbon methodologies with nature credits. The focus will be complemented by scaling in the Australian carbon market and advocating for Indigenous participation across the sector. This includes working with other industry leaders to develop market pricing that recognises the value of supporting Indigenous-led enterprise and self-determination.

INDIGENOUS CARBON CASE STUDIES

Indigenous fire management & carbon in the Kimberley (Australia)



Indigenous tenure: Native title

Indigenous governance:

- The KLC is governed by an Executive Board of 12 directors, including seven directors nominated by the KLC representative council, four cultural advisors nominated by the KLC membership, and the KLC CEO. The KLC Representative Council consists of up to two representatives from every PBC and native title claim group in the Kimberley.
- PBCs (Prescribed Bodies Corporate) are incorporated under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act) 2006* (CATSI Act) which sets out their responsibilities to the corporation and its members. Under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) (NTA), PBCs also have obligations to the common law native title holders.

Carbon rights: Rights to carbon arise from native title

Legislation: *Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011*; Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Regulations 2011; *Native Title Act 1993*

Verification: Clean Energy Regulator (CER)



KLC Ranger Network Map, Image credit: KLC

RESOURCES

- KLC Website: <https://www.klc.org.au/>
- Contact: carbon@klc.org.au



OVERVIEW

Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (ALFA)



Country:	Australia
Proponents:	Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (ALFA)
Project Type:	Savanna fire burning
Commenced:	ALFA was initially established by the traditional landowners of Arnhem Land in 2013. The West Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (WALFA) project was registered as an eligible offsets project in 2014.
Governance:	Traditional Owners for each project area are incorporated into the governance structure of the company, including the board of directors.

CASE STUDY HIGHLIGHTS

- ALFA is an Aboriginal-owned and not-for-profit carbon farming business, designed by Traditional Owners to support their engagement in the carbon industry.
- The business represents 6 projects that generate Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) through the savanna burning methodology. ALFA is the largest producer of savanna burning ACCUs in Australia.
- All the income generated through the sale of carbon credits is reinvested to support Aboriginal ranger groups and Traditional Owners to deliver land management goals as well as broader community development aspirations.
- Examples of community projects funded through the sale of ACCUs include the establishment of independent Aboriginal land management organisations; remote homelands-based schools; and reconnecting Traditional Owners with 'orphaned' (depopulated) estates.

Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (ALFA)



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

ALFA - an Aboriginal-owned and not-for-profit carbon farming business - was designed by Traditional Owners in Arnhem Land to support their engagement in the carbon industry. All the income generated through the sale of carbon credits is reinvested to support Aboriginal rangers and Traditional Owners to deliver land management goals as well as broader community development aspirations.

ALFA is the registered proponent for 6 carbon projects which generate Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) through the savanna burning methodology: West Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (WALFA), Central Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (CALFA), South East Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (SEALFA) 1 & 2, and North East Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (NEALFA). ALFA supports traditional owners to manage fire projects which generate credits. Membership of ALFA is open to any traditional owner of land where ALFA operates. For this reason, it is described as "an alliance and a collaboration between traditional owners and their affiliated Aboriginal ranger group contracted by ALFA to coordinate fire management in accordance with landowner directions". ALFA is currently the largest producer of savanna burning ACCUs in Australia.

An example project is the WALFA (registered in 2014) project which covers 28,000 km² of land in Western Arnhem. Traditional Owners and rangers use customary knowledge and modern tools for strategic fire management activities across the project area to reduce emissions of methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O). WALFA started as a partnership between the Traditional Landowners, the NT Government, the Northern Land Council, the Darwin Centre for Bushfires Research and a global oil and natural gas company ConocoPhillips. ConocoPhillips entered into the West Arnhem Fire Management Agreement to offset greenhouse gas emissions from their Darwin liquified natural gas plant.



Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (ALFA)



IP&LC INVOLVEMENT IN DESIGN / IMPLEMENTATION

- ALFA is entirely Aboriginal-owned and not-for-profit. The project uses a methodology co-developed with Traditional Owners, Aboriginal Rangers, cultural fire practitioners and scientists in Arnhem Land.
- ALFA contracts Aboriginal ranger groups to undertake the fire management activities. Each ranger group produces a Fire Management Plan for its area and signs a contract with ALFA with an agreed budget for operations. The process is transparent and agreed to by the Board of Directors.
- ALFA's Board oversees the delegation to the CEO to undertake the carbon accounting and project administration work, including the management and reporting of information systems for the verification of emission reductions; the marketing of ACCUs; and the maintenance of governance relationships within the ALFA membership. ALFA's Board of Directors consists of 18 Aboriginal directors made up of two directors elected from each of the operational areas of the fire projects.
- All revenue must be reinvested back into local Aboriginal ranger groups.

IMPACTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- WALFA project has resulted in issuance of 2,292,614 ACCUs to date. In total, ALFA projects have abated 5,755,999 tonnes of carbon (2022 Annual Report).
- ALFA's success can be measured from both a commercial perspective (financial stability and revenue generation), as well as non-commercial perspectives, including facilitation of employment and residence on country, the transfer of generational knowledge and funding essential programs and equipment that assist broader environmental work.
- Examples of community identified projects funded through the sale of ACCUs include the establishment of independent Aboriginal land management organisations, funding contributions to develop, register and run independent remote homelands-based schools, ecological monitoring and research, reconnecting Traditional Owners with 'orphaned' (depopulated) estates as well as infrastructure and capital items to increase the capacity of Aboriginal ranger groups to support Traditional Owners to manage the land and sea country of Arnhem Land.

BENEFIT-SHARING HIGHLIGHTS

- ALFA is not-for-profit - 95% of all revenue from the sale of ACCUs is re-invested back into the Aboriginal ranger groups to provide local employment while preserving culture and the environment.

INDIGENOUS CARBON CASE STUDIES

Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (ALFA)



RESOURCES

- ALFA Website: <https://www.alfant.com.au/>
- Contact: ceo@alfant.com.au



Indigenous tenure:

ALFA projects are located on inalienable freehold Aboriginal Land in Arnhem Land, vested by the Aboriginal Land Rights Act (NT) 1976 in the land trusts managed by statutory land councils.

ALFA was granted by the Northern Land Council (NLC) and holds, for all ALFA project areas, Section 19 Land Use Agreements that give ALFA the legal right to undertake fire management in the project area and to earn and sell carbon credits from the management of fire.

The current LUAs expire 31 December 2024. In preparation for statutory processes to renew the Land Use Agreements, ALFA has been undertaking a pre-consultation project with the many hundreds of clans across Arnhem Land - giving people the chance to hear information, ask questions, talk to family and think about the projects prior to the formal NLC-led consultation process.

Indigenous governance:

- Traditional Owners for each project area are incorporated into the governance structure of the company. Each membership class has two representatives on the ALFA board of directors. Currently, there are 18 First Nations board directors.
- Land Use Agreements legally govern access to land and carrying out of burning activities.

Carbon rights:

Land trusts established under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act (NT) 1976 hold land title in the Northern Territory and have all the rights of the owner of the land. These rights must be exercised for the benefit of Traditional owners concerned and in accordance with the directions of the Land Council for the area in which the land is situated.

Legislation:

Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011; Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Regulations 2011; Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act 1976

Verification:

Clean Energy Regulator (CER)



OVERVIEW

Tajimat Pujut



Country:	Peru
Proponents:	Awajún Indigenous Regional Federation of Alto Mayo (FERIAAM) with Conservation International Peru
Project Type:	REDD+ and ARR
Commenced:	CI's work with the Awajun communities of the Alto Mayo on life plans and collective conservation agreements started in 2013. Interest from the Awajun communities in developing a carbon project began in 2016, finally taking the form of the <i>Tajimat Pujut</i> project in 2021.
Governance:	FERIAAM represents the priorities and interests of the Awajun communities of the Alto Mayo region, and conservation and development is based on agreed Community Life Plans (CLPs).

CASE STUDY HIGHLIGHTS

- FERIAAM and Conservation International Peru have co-designed *Tajimat Putut* with the participation of the Alto Mayo communities, a project that aims to conserve and restore the forests of the Awajun.
- CI Peru and FERIAAM assist communities to produce Community Life Plans (CLPs), which are community developed documents that outline their future priorities. The CLPs are used as the basis for conservation agreements that spell out community conservation commitments in return for livelihood support and strengthening of governance capacity.
- To date, 16 communities have signed up to participate in *Tajimat Pujut*.
- The project supports the generation of alternative and sustainable economic income, including cocoa, coffee, vanilla, wood (through reforestation), handicrafts, non-timber forest products, medicinal plants, and other income from nature-based solutions.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

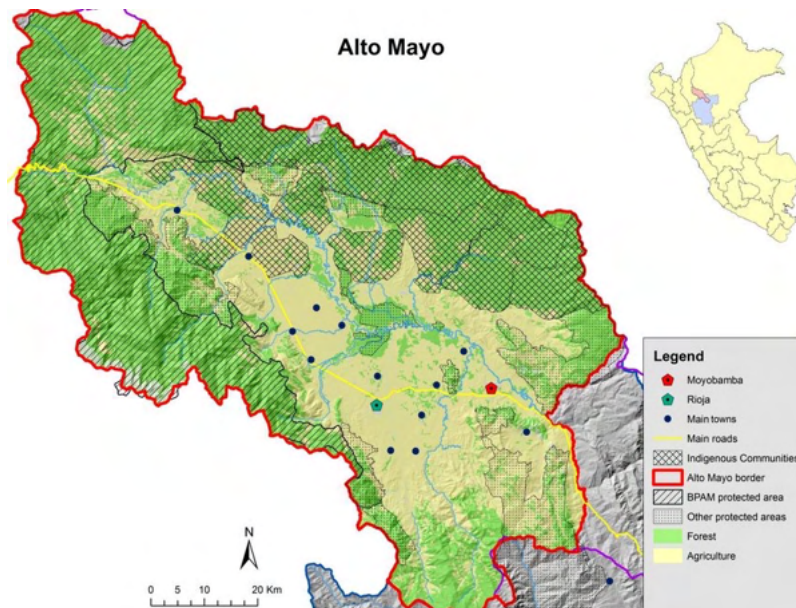
FERIAAM and Conservation International Peru have co-designed *Tajimat Putut* with the participation of the Alto Mayo communities, a project that aims to achieve the restoration and conservation of Awajun forests. In recent decades, deforestation within the Awajun communities has accelerated, with greater impact since 1990 after the opening access to the region via the Fernando Belaunde Terry highway.

The project will focus on implementing strategies and activities to achieve better management of the Awajun territory, strengthen its governance and Indigenous identity, restore degraded areas, and diversify sources of income and sustainable productive activities that secure wellbeing for the Awajun people. *Tajimat Pujut* expects to generate an average of around 68,000 tCO₂eq per year over the 30-year project lifetimer.

CI Peru and FERIAAM assist communities with development of Community Life Plans (CLPs), which are community planning documents that outline their future priorities. These CLPs are used as the basis for Conservation Agreements that spell out community conservation commitments in return for livelihood support and strengthening of governance capacity.



Image credit: CI[er]



IMPACTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- 16 communities have opted into *Tajimat Pujut*.
- Governance is being strengthened in Awajun communities through CLPs, with training in governance and Indigenous leadership.
- The first two commercial products have been developed which highlight the relationship between the forest, the territory and the Awajun, and showcase the connection to Awajun identity: chocolates and Nuwa's tea.
- The project supports the generation of alternative and sustainable economic income, including cocoa, coffee, vanilla, wood (reforestation), handicrafts, non-timber forest products, medicinal plants, and other income from nature-based solutions.

IP&LC INVOLVEMENT IN DESIGN / IMPLEMENTATION


- Awajun communities are holders of the land, and work to restore the forests and prevent deforestation. FERIAAM is the representative of the Awajun communities, and proponent of the Tajimat Pujut initiative.
- Awajun have strong involvement in design and negotiation of Conservation Agreements, and a lead role in conservation management and in selecting and applying sustainable livelihood alternatives. They approve the overall financing strategy.

BENEFIT-SHARING HIGHLIGHTS

- Conservation Agreement model with Community Life Plans.
- Communities agree to stop clearing forests in exchange for agricultural training, financial skills and access to specialty-grade markets for coffee and other products.

INDIGENOUS CARBON CASE STUDIES

Tajimat Pujut



Indigenous tenure:	Collective tenure, with Indigenous Peoples exercising rights over their ancestral domains, including ownership of the land.
Indigenous governance:	FERIAAM represents the demands and interests of the Awajun communities of the Alto Mayo region.
Carbon rights:	Peru explicitly recognises community rights to carbon.
Legislation:	Constitution of Peru, General Environmental Law (2005), Law on Climate Change (2018), Law on the Right to Prior Consultation of Indigenous or Native Peoples (2011), Forestry and Wildlife Law (2011)
Verification:	Will be verified by the Verified Carbon Standard and the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Standard.

MORE INFORMATION

- The 16 communities total 235,000 hectares, all of them under land title and with ancestral rights. 2,308 Awajún families live in these communities.
- CI has developed a multi-pronged financing solution to diversify funding sources, including revenue from sale of carbon credits; forest protection payments from Peru's national system of incentive payments for forest protection; livelihood investments; and a trust fund to support continued green economic development and core conservation management activities by the Awajún.

RESOURCES

- **FERIAAM Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100007527047587>
- **CI Peru Website:** <https://www.conservation.org/peru>
- **Shampuyacu Experience:** <https://www.conservation.org/docs/default-source/peru/the-value-of-a-standing-forest.pdf>
- **Contact:** ciperu@conservation.org



REDD+ Matavén



OVERVIEW



Country:	Colombia
Proponents:	La Asociación de Cabildos y Autoridades Tradicionales Indígenas de la Selva de Matavén (ACATISEMA) and MEDIAMOS F&M
Project Type:	REDD+
Commenced:	2006
Governance:	ACATISEMA manages proposals put forward by the Indigenous leaders of the region.

CASE STUDY HIGHLIGHTS



- The Matavén REDD+ project protects tropical forests in the Indigenous Reservation of the Matavén Forest in Colombia, which is home to 16,000 Indigenous people.
- The project is jointly run by the Association of Indigenous Councils and Indigenous Authorities of the Mataven Forest (ACATISEMA) and a consulting company, MEDIAMOS.
- Funds from the project are used to pay the salaries of Indigenous forest guards, transport systems, education and training programs for Indigenous communities, food security projects, and 100% of the operating budget of ACATISEMA, among other co-benefits.

REDD+ Matavén

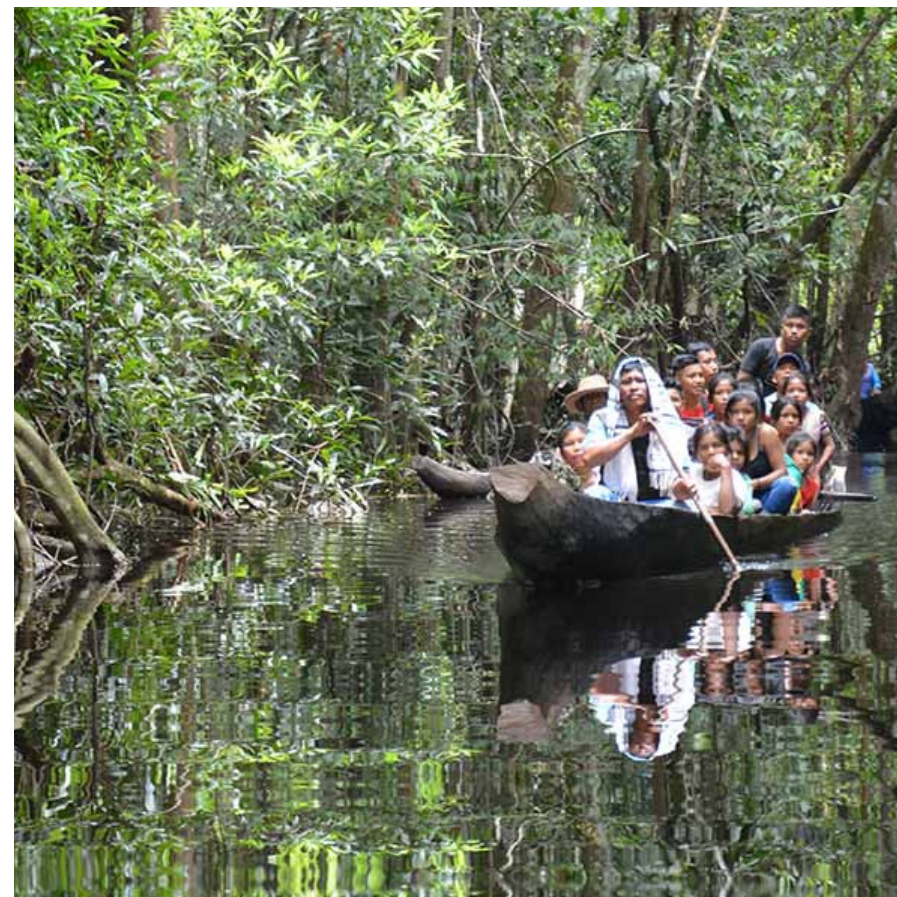


PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Matavén project is a REDD+ project protecting protects 1,150,212 hectares of tropical forests in the Indigenous Reservation of the Matavén Forest in Colombia, located in the Orinoco-Amazon transition zone of Colombia.

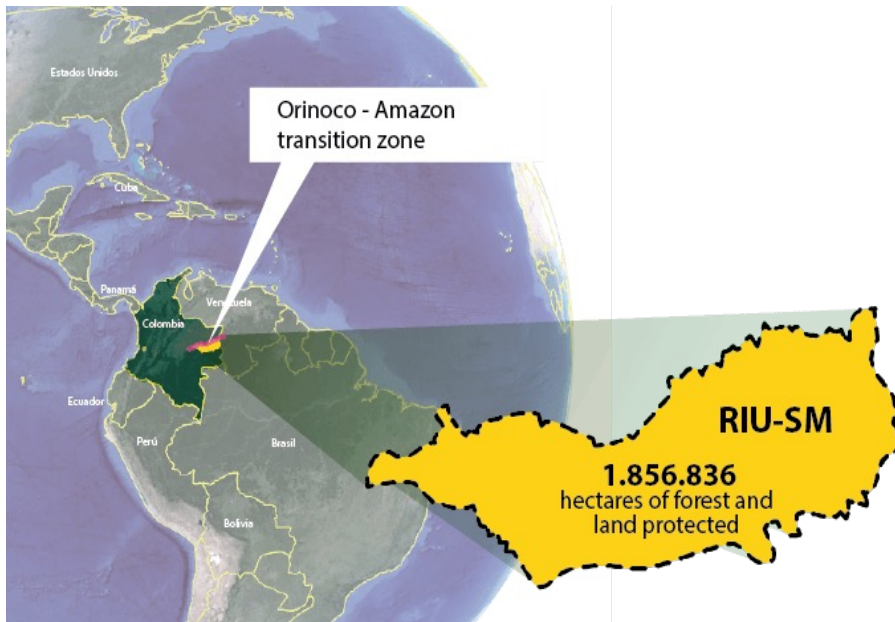
The landscape is home to around 16,000 Indigenous people, from 6 different ethnic groups: Sikuani, Piaroa, Puinave, Curripaco, Cubeo and Piapoco. The reservation is run by ACATISEMA (Association of Indigenous Councils and Indigenous Authorities of the Mataven Forest).

The project is run by ACATISEMA and MEDIAMOS (a Colombian consulting firm). It delivers 8 activities and 6 special programs. The activities focus on (1) reducing vulnerability through surveillance (e.g. providing salaries for the Indigenous guards), improved communications and transport systems, and support for ACATISEMA (providing 100% of its operating budget, around \$5m in 2022); (2) improving food security through promoting family-based agri-food production systems, providing training and education programs for Indigenous communities, and development of other projects that boost food production; and (3) activities that validate and verify the Project against international standards.



INDIGENOUS CARBON CASE STUDIES

REDD+ Matavén



IMPACTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Protects 1,150,212 hectares of tropical forest
- Avoids an average of 3,622,352 tons of CO₂ emissions per year
- Provides education, healthcare, sanitation, food security, among other co-benefits for 15.932 Indigenous people

IP&LC INVOLVEMENT IN DESIGN / IMPLEMENTATION

- In 2002, RIU-SM Indigenous leaders created ACATISEMA - Association of Cabildos and Traditional Indigenous Authorities of the Matavén Forest.
- This organization provides leadership, runs the Indigenous reservation, ensures their cultural survival, and protects their natural resources.
- ACATISEMA engaged Mediamos F&M in 2012 to help them develop one of Colombia's first REDD+ projects.

BENEFIT-SHARING HIGHLIGHTS

Funds raised support six special programs that respond to Matavén needs and improve their quality of life.

- Health & Healthcare Program
- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Program
- Housing & Moriche Palm Protection Program
- Special Population Program
- Environmental Indigenous Thinking Centers
- Emergency Assistance Program

INDIGENOUS CARBON CASE STUDIES

REDD+ Matavén



Indigenous tenure:	Within Indigenous territories, people have autonomy in managing their political, economic, social and cultural interests, as per their traditions and belief systems.
Indigenous governance:	ACATISEMA (the Association of Indigenous Councils and Traditional Authorities of the Matavén Jungle) manages proposals put forward by the Indigenous leaders of the region. As the political representative of the Reservation, it is made up of a coordinating committee, in charge of implementing policies, programs and projects, and the general assembly and the council of elders, as management bodies.
Carbon rights:	Carbon rights are tied to land ownership, including Indigenous-owned lands.
Legislation:	The Constitution of Colombia defines Indigenous territories as areas of land reserved for use and managed by its Indigenous people.
Verification:	Approved by the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) and Climate, Community & Biodiversity (CCB).

MORE INFORMATION

- The project avoids an average of 3,622,352 Tons of CO₂ per year.
- Project activities include:
 - Reduction of Matavén Vulnerability
 - Surveillance and control of the territory
 - Improvement of the systems of communications, transportation and information
 - Strengthening ACATISEMA governance
 - Matavén Food Security and Food Self-Sufficiency
 - Development of Family-based Agri-food Production Systems
 - Development of training and education programs for Matavén Indigenous communities
 - Development of Productive Projects
 - Validation, Measurement, Reporting & Verification
 - Validation of the Project against international standards
 - Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) of the Project against international standards

RESOURCES

- **Mataven Website:** <https://www.selvamatavenredd.org/>
- **SSI Review Article:** https://ssir.org/articles/entry/how_carbon_offsetting_can_build_a_forest
- **Contact:** contacto@selvamatavenredd.org

INDIGENOUS CARBON CASE STUDIES

Bujang Raba



OVERVIEW

Country:	Indonesia
Proponents:	KKI WARSI (Komunitas Konservasi Indonesia Warsi)
Project Type:	REDD+
Commenced:	2014
Governance:	Village Forest Councils supervise each hamlet's community forest, based on agreed village forest management plans (RKHDs).

CASE STUDY HIGHLIGHTS

- The Bujang Raba Community project conserves endangered primary rainforest in Sumatra's Bukit Barisan forest through a REDD+ intervention programme.
- Five Indigenous communities are involved in protecting tropical mountainous forests. The project has helped to strengthen their land tenure rights.
- Income from carbon credits is used to develop high value agroforestry systems on the community's secondary forestland, such as introducing high value crops such as cardamom, cocoa, and other non-timber forest products (NTFPs), that can be integrated into smallholder agroforestry plots.

INDIGENOUS CARBON CASE STUDIES

Bujang Raba



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Bujang Raba Community project conserves over 5,339ha of endangered primary rainforest in Sumatra's Bukit Barisan forest through a REDD+ intervention programme. The project involves 5 Indigenous communities in protecting tropical mountainous forests. Income from carbon credits are applied to developing high value agroforestry systems on the community secondary forestland.

The Bujang Raba project site is rich in biodiversity and is home to threatened species and other species of high conservation value. These species include the Malayan Tapir (*Tapirus indicus*), Sun Bear (*Helarctos malayanus*), and the critically endangered Sumatran tiger (*Panthera tigris sumatrae*).

The project has also initiated a number of activities to diversify income for participating communities by introducing high value crops such as cardamom, cocoa, and other non-timber forest products (NTFPs) that can be integrated into smallholder agroforestry plots. The project also works with community members to build bamboo and rattan processing capacities to open up other income streams.



Image credit: Bukit Barisan mountains, Sapariah Saturi, MongaBay

Bujang Raba

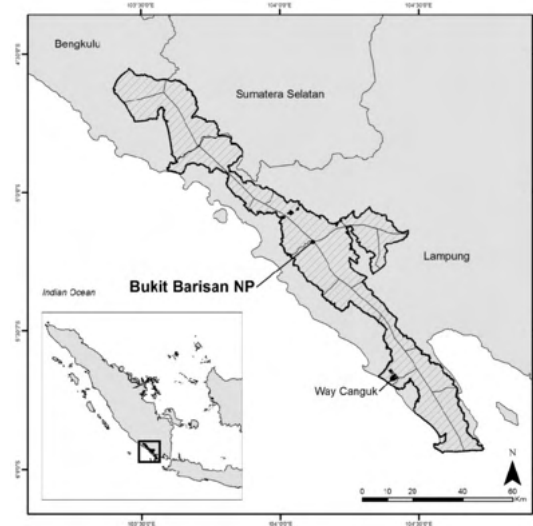


IP&LC INVOLVEMENT IN DESIGN / IMPLEMENTATION

- Local communities were involved in project design. In 2014, WARSI facilitated a series of meetings in the 5 participating hamlets to discuss the goals, structure, and process for REDD+ project development under the Plan Vivo standard. Marginalised women were particularly engaged for involvement in the design given their active involvement and knowledge of natural resource management and particular vulnerability to any deterioration of the forest and water resources in the project area.
- Community-led implementation of the project activities are carried out through the village forest management plans, as well as business plans and meetings between the Village Forest Council and Customary Forest Councils.
- A Village Forest Communication Forum is held monthly to review implications of the management plan and prepare annual project reports.

IMPACTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- 303,280 Plan Vivo Certificates (PVCs) issued to-date.
- 162,460 PVCs approved for future issuance as at 2023.
- Empowered local communities by strengthening land tenure rights and establishing the first formally recognised Village Forests in Indonesia.
- Livelihood benefits include employment opportunities (including community for patrol roles, other monitoring, fire control), new revenue streams, power self-sufficiency with developing biogas and hydropower.
- Growing ecotourism with local tourists.



BENEFIT-SHARING HIGHLIGHTS

- Income from carbon credits is applied to developing high value agroforestry systems on the community secondary forestland.

INDIGENOUS CARBON CASE STUDIES

Bujang Raba



Indigenous tenure:

The area is managed by communities under the 'Hutan Desa' program which recognises and secures land tenure and allows community members to sustainably manage the forest.

Village forest (hutan desa) management rights allow a village community to manage, protect, and benefit from state forest land through a local village organization that plans, manages, and allocates benefits derived from the forest. All 5 villages hold hutan desa management rights.

Carbon rights:

Forests were previously protected under state jurisdiction. Hutan Desa status granted 35-year renewable management rights to all 5 project hamlets, recognizing their claim to their traditional forest land.

Verification:

Plan Vivo

Indigenous governance:

To coordinate the management of the project area (Hutan Desa) Village Forest Councils (VFCs) were formed to supervise each hamlet's community forest.

Villages have also developed village forest management plans (RKHDs) which has been approved by the Governor of Jambi.

The management plans consist of 3 main activities, namely: 1) Avoided Deforestation (REDD) through improving village forest management plans and operations, 2) Improving Livelihoods – through village forest business plans and livelihood generating capacity, 3) strengthening village forest institutions.

RESOURCES

- **KKI WARSI Website:** <http://www.warsi.or.id/>
- **Plan Vivo Case Study:** <https://www.planvivo.org/bujang-raba>
- **Contact:** office@warsi.or.id

Cheakamus Community Forest



OVERVIEW

Country:	Canada
Proponents:	Cheakamus Community Forest Ltd (CCF)
Project Type:	Improved Forest Management
Commenced:	2009
Governance:	CCF (an equal partnership between the Lil'wat Nation, Squamish Nation and Resort Municipality of Whistler) signed a 25-year tenure with the provincial Ministry of Forests and Range in 2009. The CCF formed the CCF Society (an independent not-for-profit organisation) to oversee the management and operation of the forest.

CASE STUDY HIGHLIGHTS

- Cheakamus Community Forest (CCF) is an equal partnership between two First Nations communities in British Columbia (Lil'wat Nation and Squamish Nation) and a local government body.
- Of the 33,000 ha of community-managed forest, almost half of the forest (15,000 hectares) is protected from harvesting.
- CCF implements an ecosystem-based management plan (which includes techniques such as extended harvest rotations, reduced harvest volumes, expanded reserves, and protection of wildlife habitat). This generates carbon offsets through the Atmospheric Benefit-Sharing Agreement (ABSA).
- CCF receives 80% of the carbon offsets, while the province receives 20%. These revenues cover the additional costs of the ecosystem-based management approach including additional planning and community engagement costs. A portion of revenues are used to support community projects, identified through a Community Benefit Policy.

Cheakamus Community Forest



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Cheakamus Community Forest (CCF) includes 33,000 hectares of community-managed forest in British Columbia near Whistler and located on the overlapping, unceded traditional territories of the Squamish Nation and Lil'wat Nation. A community forest is a "forestry operation managed by a local government, First Nation, or community-held organization for the benefit of the entire community". Community forests allow communities to practice sustainable forestry that provides local forest employment and generates economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits.

CCF implemented an Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) Plan, which includes techniques such as extended harvest rotations, reduced harvest volumes, expanded reserves, protection of old growth forests, and protection of important wildlife habitat with the goal of achieving an appropriate balance between timber harvesting, tourism, cultural values, recreation, wildlife and biodiversity.

Of the 33,000 ha of community-managed forest, almost half of the forest, 15,000 hectares, is protected from harvesting through mechanisms such as Old Growth Management Areas (nearly 50 per cent of the trees are designated old growth forest) and Ungulate Winter Range status designation plus voluntary set asides (CCF website). In April 2009, the Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW), Lil'wat and Squamish Nations entered an agreement with the Ministry of Forests and Range to harvest 20,000 cubic metres annually within the tenure area.

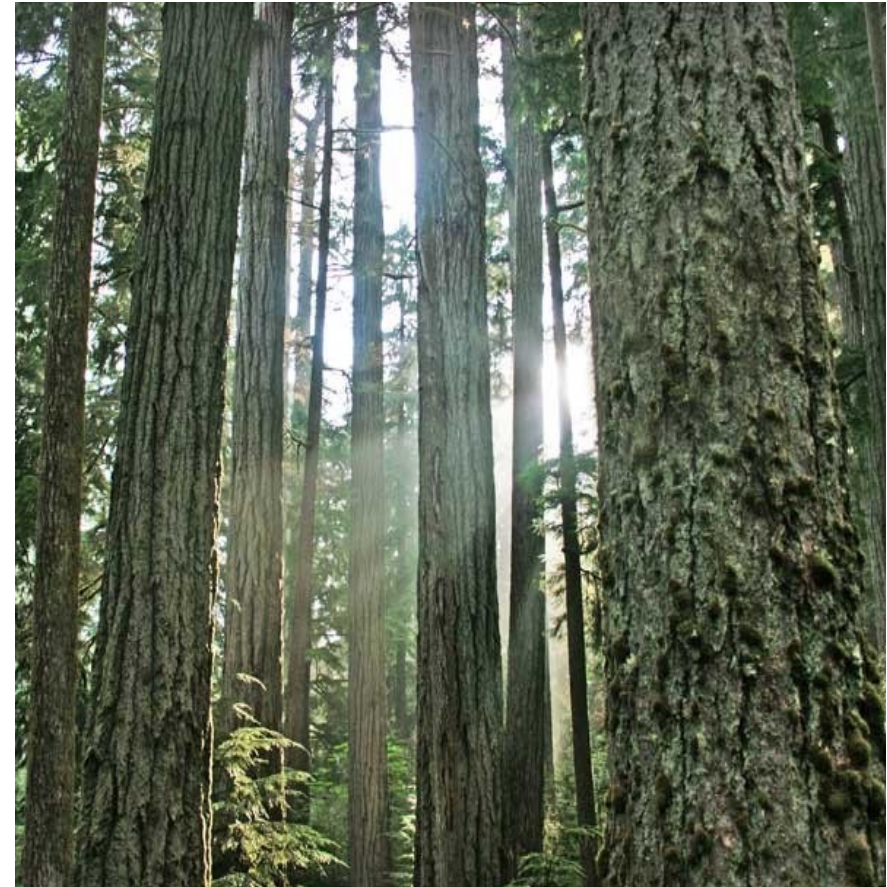


Image credit: Cheakamus Community Forest, Pique Magazine

Cheakamus Community Forest



IP&LC INVOLVEMENT IN DESIGN / IMPLEMENTATION

- The Cheakamus Community Forest Limited Partnership (CCFLP) - an equal partnership between the Lil'wat Nation, Squamish Nation and Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) - signed a 25-year tenure with the provincial Ministry of Forests and Range in 2009. The CCF LP formed the CCF Society (an independent not-for-profit organisation with a Board of Directors) to oversee the management and operation of the forest.
- Lil'wat and Squamish First Nations and RMOW are equal partners, with equal representation in the CCFS, and equally share in the forest management. The mission of the CCFS is to "[p]rioritize the ecological health of local forests while respecting their cultural significance to the Lil'wat and Squamish peoples and generating direct economic benefits for the two First Nations and the citizens of Whistler".
- Guiding principles for the partnership include (1) Decisions will be made by consensus whenever possible; (2) The cultural significance of the forests to the Lil'wat and Squamish peoples will always be prioritised in planning and operations; (3) Modern methods of forest management will be blended with traditional Indigenous knowledge and practices; (4) Forest planning and operations will respect the land use priorities of the Squamish Nation, Lil'wat Nation, and the Resort Municipality of Whistler; (5) The Squamish and Lil'wat Nations will have first right of refusal on all contracts (and, where capacity exists, all CCF contracts will be offered to Lil'wat and Squamish Nation businesses first).
- The Board of Directors includes two representatives from each partner. The Board meets quarterly to develop and implement policy related to strategy, governance, finances and operations.

IMPACTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- The Vision Statement in CCF's Strategy Plan 2023 - 2025 is that the "the CCF partnership is recognised as a model of reconciliation, supporting the prosperity of the RMOW, Lil'wat and Squamish Nations through a thriving local economy".
- Direct GHG emissions reductions from improved forest management actions on the 33,000 hectares managed (i.e. reduced harvest volumes, extended harvest rotations, expanded reserves, and protection of old growth forests and other important wildlife habitat). GHG Offset funds contribute to community benefit projects that improve lives in the Lil'wat Nation, Squamish Nation and Whistler.
- Protection of primary forests that contain culturally significant flora and fauna that are integral to Indigenous knowledge systems and community health.
- Key focus activities in 2023-2025 relate to wildfire prevention, employment, revenue generation.

BENEFIT-SHARING HIGHLIGHTS

- Through the Atmospheric Benefit-Sharing Agreement (ABSA), the CCF receives 80% of the Carbon Offsets generated, while the province receives 20%. The carbon offset revenues are necessary to cover the additional costs of the ecosystem-based management approach including additional planning and community engagement costs.
- The Community Benefit Policy identifies a system for distributing a portion of carbon revenues for community projects. In 2025, we are developing a scholarship for graduating students from the partner communities, assisting an Indigenous sports group, educational speakers, sponsoring a mountain bike trail building night, etc.

INDIGENOUS CARBON CASE STUDIES

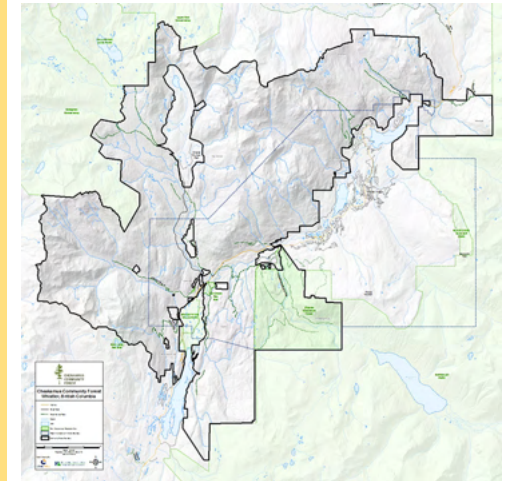
Cheakamus Community Forest



Indigenous tenure:	The Community Forest Agreement (CFA) is an area-based licence operating on Crown land, that provides the exclusive right to harvest timber within the CFA area, and the right to manage botanical forest products. Licences are long-term (25 years), replaceable every 10 years. The CFA tenure was developed to give local communities the opportunity to manage local forests for the benefit of those communities, in a manner consistent with locally defined objectives and values. This agreement was signed in 2009 by the CCFS and provincial Ministry of Forests and Range.
Carbon rights:	CCF entered into an "Atmospheric Benefit Sharing Agreement" (ABSA) with the Province of British Columbia which allows for sale of verified emissions reduction within the carbon project.
Legislation:	CFAs are governed by the Forest Act and the Forest and Range Practices Act.
Verification:	Approved by the Verified Carbon Standard and the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Standard

MORE INFORMATION

- The Cheakamus Community Forest Limited Partnership (an equal partnership between the Lil'wat Nation, Squamish Nation and Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW)) signed a 25-year tenure with the provincial Ministry of Forests and Range in 2009. The CCF LP formed the CCF Society (an independent not-for-profit organisation with a Board of Directors) to oversee the management and operation of the forest.
- The mission of the CCFS is to "prioritize the ecological health of local forests while respecting their cultural significance to the Lil'wat and Squamish peoples and generating direct economic benefits for the two First Nations and the citizens of Whistler".



RESOURCES

- **CCF Website:** <https://www.cheakamuscommunityforest.com/>
- **Contact:** info@cheakamuscommunityforest.com

Yurok Tribe



OVERVIEW

Country:	USA
Proponents:	Yurok Tribe
Project Type:	Improved Forest Management
Commenced:	2011
Governance:	Yurok Tribe is a self-governing tribe, responsible for the Yurok Indian Reservation.

CASE STUDY HIGHLIGHTS

- The Yurok Tribe manages over 30,000 hectares of forested lands in California, lands which were previously managed for commercial timber production.
- The Tribe was one of the first participants in the California Cap-and-Trade Program. Carbon credits are generated based on reduced timber harvest and improved management that reduces forest fires. It manages two Improved Forest Management projects referred to as Phase 1 and the CKGG projects, totalling over 30,000 acres of pristine forest lands.
- Selling 100-year contracts for forest offsets under the Cap-and-Trade Program has enabled the Yurok Tribe to re-acquire approximately 50,000 acres of forest within the Yurok ancestral territory.
- Revenues have also been used to repatriate important cultural heritage objects previously lost to private collectors.

INDIGENOUS CARBON CASE STUDIES

Yurok Tribe



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In 2011, the Yurok Tribe became one of the first participants in the California Cap and Trade Program. Carbon credits are generated based on reduced timber harvest and improved management that reduces forest fires.

Currently, the Yurok Tribe manages two Improved Forest Management projects referred to as Phase 1 and the CKGG projects, totalling over 30,000 acres of pristine forest lands. The forward-looking projects have put the Tribal government in a position to significantly advance its social, economic, cultural and environmental restoration goals.

Selling 100-year contracts for forest offsets under Cap-and-Trade Program has enabled the Yurok Tribe to re-acquire approximately 50,000 acres of forest within the Yurok ancestral territory from a large timber company and others. Located near the Klamath River, these lands are holistically managed to achieve several objectives, including: carbon sequestration, old growth forest restoration, watershed restoration and sediment reduction, anadromous fisheries restoration, cultural preservation, endangered species protection and climate change resilience. In addition, these lands are once again accessible to tribal members for cultural uses, such as gathering basket making materials as well as traditional medicines and foods. The Yurok have been using revenue generated from the offset project to pay off loans, buy- back their traditional territory, and train staff to continue the project over the next 100 years.



Image credit: Yurok Tribe

Yurok Tribe



IMPACTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- The Tribe manages over 30,000 hectares of forested lands, previously managed for commercial timber production.
- The Tribe has re-acquired over 50,000 acres of lands within their ancestral territory from a private timber company.
- Economic benefits have created jobs for tribal members who directly participate in carbon off-sets project management, forest restoration, watershed restoration, and other natural resources management projects.
- In April 2014, California Air Resources Board (CARB) issued more than 800,000 offset credits, worth an estimated US\$6 million to \$8 million, to the Yurok Tribe. By 2018, CARB had issued nearly 3 million offset credits to the Yurok Tribe.
- Participation in the Cap-and-Trade Program has provided the opportunity for the Yurok Tribe to undertake successful partnerships between other tribal governments and nations, subnational governments, university institutions, and non-governmental partners.


IP&LC INVOLVEMENT IN DESIGN / IMPLEMENTATION

- The California Air Resources Board (ARB) did not initially engage with tribes when creating the cap-and-trade program because they were focusing on land where the state had enforcement jurisdiction. The Yurok Tribe approached them and along with several other tribes provided feedback to ensure the program worked within the structures of tribal law while fulfilling the state's need to enforce regulatory standards. In 2013, when the Cap-and-Trade Program formally launched, the Yurok became the first entity in the state to register a forest offset project.
- Conservation management, financing strategy and benefit-sharing arrangements have been designed by the Tribe.

BENEFIT-SHARING HIGHLIGHTS

- Participation in the Cap-and-Trade Program has enabled the Tribe to re-acquire approximately 50,000 acres of lands within their ancestral territory from a private timber company, making them accessible to tribal members for cultural uses, as well as for carbon sequestration and other restoration work. Revenues have also been used to repatriate important cultural heritage objects previously lost to private collectors.
- Long-term, revenues will be used for natural resource management, and to provide for quality resource-based Tribal employment (i.e. "green jobs"). The overall management approach will use the best available science and applied adaptive management, most importantly guided by traditional Yurok cultural values and appropriate traditional management practices. Sustainable forestry practices will rejuvenate old-growth forests and improve the overall health and resiliency of the lands for native fish and wildlife, cultural lifeways and economic opportunities which will greatly improve conditions for the Yurok people who rely on the Klamath River for their cultural and economic livelihoods.

INDIGENOUS CARBON CASE STUDIES

<p>Yurok Tribe</p>	
<p>Indigenous tenure:</p>	<p>The Yurok are a sovereign government whose legal authority covers a fragment of the traditional homeland of the Indigenous Yurok people in the lower Klamath River basin in northern California, USA.</p>
<p>Carbon rights:</p>	<p>Tribes, because of their unique status as sovereign nations, must include a limited waiver of sovereign immunity that is legally binding under the Tribe's laws as part of the offset project listing requirements.</p>
<p>Legislation:</p>	<p>California Land Act of 1851</p>
<p>Verification:</p>	<p>SCS Global Services</p>



- RESOURCES**
- Yurok Tribe Website: <https://www.yuroktribe.org/>
 - Equator Initiative Case Study: <https://www.equatorinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Yurok-Tribe-Case-Study-English-FNL.pdf>
 - Contact: <https://www.yuroktribe.org/contact>

Image credit: Todd Trumbull, The Chronicle

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