Mai Ndombe Avoided Deforestation, Congo

Protecting an ecologically rich and diverse area with some of the world's most important wetlands from commercial timber extraction.

carbon**neutral** ®

Funding activities designed to reduce or eliminate deforestation, while improving the socio-economic livelihood of the surrounding community.

Avoided Deforestation Project

The Mai Ndombe REDD+ Project, located in the western part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Africa, will protect 248,956 hectares of forest from industrial logging, unsustainable fuel wood extraction and slash and burn agriculture.

Carbon validation will be undertaken by the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) and major socio-economic co-benefits ensured by the Climate, Community and Biodiversity (CCB) standard.

The project is developed and managed in a joint venture by forest carbon leaders ERA-Ecosystem Restoration Associates Inc. and Wildlife Works Carbon LLC.

This groundbreaking project will be the first of its kind in the Congo Basin and utilises the novel methodology developed by Wildlife Works, VM0009, 'Methodology for Avoided Deforestation' approved by the VCS in October, 2012.

The project is estimated to deliver over 175MT CO_2-e over 30 years.

Verified Carbon Standard
A **VERRA** STANDARD

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Mai Ndombe

PROJECT KEY FACTS

Type: Avoided Deforestation

Location: Inongo Territory, Mai-Ndombe Lake District, Bandundu Province, Democratic Republic of Congo

Emissions Reduction: 175MT over 30 years or 5671613t per year

Standard: VCS Climate, Community, Biodiversity Standards

Vintage: 2013-2015

Certification: Verra Verified Carbon Standard

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

This project will conserve flora and fauna within the project area. Protecting these two former logging concessions will maintain critical forested area and the ecosystem services that it provides. Furthermore, it will also rehabilitate habitat for endangered animals such as the Bonobo and Forest Elephant. By protecting the native forest, the project will also increase the resilience of the ecosystem to the effects of climate change.

Many other additional project activities will help both local communities and biodiversity to minimise and adapt to expected climate change impacts. Improved seed distribution and training on improved agricultural methods will lead to increased yields and adaptation to changes in rainfall, the timing of growing seasons, and changing temperatures.

The project will help reduce CO2 emissions from the area through stopping planned legal, and reducing unplanned illegal logging, charcoal production, and slash and burn agriculture.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

- Enhance livelihoods and food security for communities in the project area.
- Increase local administrative and governance capacity through support of existing traditional and contemporary governance structures.
- The sustainable use of natural resources.
- Improve access to health and education.
- Improved access to, and quantity of, potable water.
- Improve community well-being.

BIODIVERSITY BENEFITS

- Retain intact forests and ecosystem integrity at the landscape level.
- Retain and promote recovery of habitat as well as native flora and fauna.
- Retain rare and ecologically valuable species.
- Increase local and outside knowledge of the area's biodiversity values.

THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development

THE MAI NDOMBE REDD+ PROJECT HAS BEEN MEASURED AGAINST TEN OF THE UN'S 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

1 NO POVERTY

Co-created by local leaders and locally hired employees, the economic and social development programs designed to alleviate poverty and impact over 50,000 community members.

2 ZERO HUNGER

Locally-hired employees conduct demonstration gardens, agroforestry and conservation farming training to increase access to information for local community members so that they can improve their crop yields in sustainable ways.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Carbon revenues create the financial resources to enable the purchase of medicine, operate mobile clinics, perform vaccinations for infants and pregnant women, as well as to conduct HIV screenings and lead education programs.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

Each year construction of schools is funded towards the goal of 32 total schools within the project area. The 14 schools built to date increase access to quality education for thousands of children who previously did not have access to formal education.

5 GENDER EQUALITY

This project increases women's capacity for economic opportunities, such as agricultural intensification, clothing manufacturing, and honey production.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

With earned carbon revenue from forest protection, communities have invested in a portable drilling rig to revolutionise access to clean water. As of 2022, the portable drill has created access to clean underground water in 20 villages of the project area.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

This project supports 65+ locally hired employees to fill conservation and social impact jobs that represent new career opportunities within the project zone. It also sustains 300+ administration jobs in the project's logistics office which is located off-site.

13 CLIMATE ACTION

The Mai Ndombe REDD+ Project reduces over 3.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually, and over 100 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions over the project's 30 year life span.

15 LIFE ON LAND

The Mai Ndombe REDD+ protects 300,000 ht of rainforest and the 16 high conservation value species, including critically endangered bonobos and forest elephants.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Wildlife Works projects are examples of private-public community partnerships that bring together national and regional government, local community and private sector for conservation finance and community development.

This project conserves a number of species in the designated area. By safeguarding these two former logging concessions, it will preserve critical forested regions and their essential ecosystem services. Additionally, the project rehabilitates habitats for endangered species such as the bonobo, the forest elephant, the angolan colobus and the giant ground pangolin.

Protecting the native forest will also enhance the ecosystem's resilience to climate change.