



Mai Ndombe REDD+



Mai Ndombe REDD+ was the first REDD+ Project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) – supported by the Congolese government and the UN REDD Programme. It protects nearly 300,000 hectares of tropical rainforest from deforestation and has multiple positive effects on climate change mitigation, the protection of biodiversity and local living conditions. Carbon offsets have facilitated the conversion of two large timber concessions into a long-term conservation concession and supported related local livelihood enhancement initiatives.

At present, 50 people from the project area are employed full time and hundreds of other community members are given casual employment and training.

HOW IT WORKS

The Congo Basin is home to the second largest rainforest in the world, after the Amazon Basin. Intact rainforests provide significant carbon sinks as trees sequester and remove carbon from the atmosphere, converting and storing it as biomass. By engaging in conservation activities, the project is effectively maintaining that carbon sink as biomass, rather than allowing it to be released into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide, as it would be during deforestation.

CARBON OFFSETS MADE IT HAPPEN

The forests in the Mai Ndombe region are threatened by a growing demand for tropical hardwoods, an increasing population and poverty



driven unregulated artisanal logging. Without the REDD+ project, industrial logging activities would have continued unabated, creating a network of logging roads, opening access to previously uninhabited areas, and triggering the movement of local wood harvesters into new areas. This combination of industrial logging followed by artisanal logging is a land-use change pattern seen throughout the Congo Basin that ultimately leads to loss of forest cover

OTHER BENEFITS OF THE INSTALLATION

The project area - with its dense rain and swamp forest in the western province of Mai Ndombe – provides natural habitat for chimpanzees, bonobos and forest elephants. Beyond the direct climate benefits, the project will conserve ecosystem integrity, healthy soils, watersheds, and wildlife habitat

The project area is also home to approximately 50,000 people living in 26 villages, who make a living from fishing, small-scale agriculture and charcoal production. Offsetters works closely with local communities to facilitate community-based conservation and agricultural enhancement. In addition, several socioeconomic benefits have resulted from project activities including: building schools, a mobile medical clinic, vaccination program, school supply distribution and ongoing capacity building workshops for employees and project area communities. Revenues from the sale of carbon credits are channeled directly into the project region. A “Local Development Fund” is managed by a committee of local stakeholders who determine how carbon revenues are allocated in their communities.

Project At A Glance

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| Project Location: | Bandundu Province, District of Lake Mai Ndombe, territory of Inongo, Democratic Republic of Congo |
| Project Type: | REDD+ |
| Area: | 299,645 hectares |
| Proponents: | Offsetters Climate Solutions Inc (In partnership with sister organization: ERA Congo), Wildlife Works Carbon LLC |



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| Registry: | Markit Environmental Registry |
| Standard: | Verified Carbon Standard (VCS), Climate, Community and Biodiversity (CCB) Standard - Achieving Climate Adaptation and Community Gold Levels |
| Credits Generated per Year | 1.25 - 3 million tCO ₂ e |
| Equivalent # of cars removed from the road annually: | 260,417 to 625,000 (Based on EPA GHG Equivalency Calculator) |
| Validator: | Det Norske Veritas |
| Verifier: | Det Norske Veritas |
| Portfolio: | n/a |
| Project Start: | March 2011 |
| Project Longevity: | 30 years |