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Not So Niche
Co-benefits at the Intersection of Forest Carbon and Sustainable Development

Donors: MacArthur Foundation, Good Energies
ECOSYSTEM MARKETPLACE: A global source for news, data and analytics on environmental markets and payments for ecosystem services.
**Record Year:** Demand for forest carbon offsets reached an all-time high of 34.4 Mt in 2015, with 10.6 Mt transacted on compliance markets.

**Historical Market-Based Payments for Forest-Based Emissions Reductions: Transaction Volumes and Values**

Note: Based on 193 MtCO2e in market-based transaction volume over time.
**Co-Benefits Report Methodology**: Global annual survey of forest carbon offset suppliers, with targeted questions about multiple impacts.

**Number of Projects Responding to Questions within Impact Categories**

- Community involvement: 78
- Climate adaptation: 70
- Water: 54
- Biodiversity: 52
- Jobs: 51
- Benefits to vulnerable groups: 41
- Benefits to women: 37

Total number of projects reporting: 144

Impacts

- 51 forest carbon projects reported on jobs or training
- 7,900 people were employed by a forest carbon project in 2014
- 99% of people employed were in developing countries; 15% were in Least Developed Countries
- 74% of the people employed were men
- 48% of the jobs were full-time
- 46,200 people were trained as a result of forest carbon project activities in 2014

Count of Projects Reporting Climate Resilience Benefits by Region, 2014

Impacts

Type of climate resilience benefit:
- Forest fire management
- Storm protection
- Flood erosion control
- Habitat protection
- Earned income
- Regulated climate
- Infrastructure improvements
- Enhanced food security

**Demand Dynamics:** At least 10.7 MtCO$_2$e transacted in 2014 found a buyer primarily because of their co-benefits; no price premium detected.

**Extent to Which Co-benefits Motivated the Buyer to Complete a Transaction in 2014 by Volume, Average Price, and Project Count**

Notes: Based on responses associated with 16.3 MtCO$_2$e in transaction volume.
TRENDS TO WATCH:

• **More specific & standardized reporting on co-benefits**  
  ➔ It’s only getting better

• **Methodologies to “stack” multiple benefits**  
  ➔ For instance, through Gold Standard 3.0

• **Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals**  
  ➔ Forest carbon projects are tracking metrics that already align with some SDG indicators. More alignment could be strategic: These Global Goals will guide investments for the next 15 years.
Forest engineer Sara Camacho explains forest carbon measurements to students in Calakmul, Mexico. Photo by Carlos Herrera.

CONTACT

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Extra Slides
Impacts

27 projects helped to clarify land tenure in the project area, affecting a total of 2.2 M hectares.

Count of Projects Reporting Land Tenure Type and Carbon Ownership, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Tenure Type</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collective or customary</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private (single landowner)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private (many smallholders)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land-use concessions</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Some % of the carbon asset owned by local communities (but less than 100%)
- 100% of the carbon asset owned by local communities
- No carbon ownership reported

53 forest carbon projects reported on biodiversity benefits

141 vulnerable or endangered species protected by forest carbon projects

A few examples of those that appear on the IUCN Red List: bearcat, Baird’s tapir, giant pangolin, Borneo bay cat, Amazonian manatee, maned wolf, giant armadillo, bearded pig, marbled cat, red-handed howler monkey

Impacts
**Carbon and Co-Benefits Standards**: Provide frameworks for measuring results, but often leave the specifics up to project developers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number of Land-Use Projects</th>
<th>Land-Use Project Types Supported</th>
<th>2014 Offset Volume Transacted (EM)</th>
<th>2014 Average Offset Price (EM)</th>
<th>2014 Market Share (EM)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Climate, Community &amp; Biodiversity (CCB) Standards</strong></td>
<td>35 verified projects; 59 more in the pipeline (validated)</td>
<td>12.3 MtCO₂e (all as an add-on to VCS)</td>
<td>$4.2</td>
<td>50% (for VCS+CCB offsets; another 13% used VCS alone)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plan Vivo</strong></td>
<td>12 active projects; 40 more in the pipeline</td>
<td>0.6 MtCO₂e</td>
<td>$7.5</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gold Standard</strong></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0.1 MtCO₂e</td>
<td>$11.1</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Notes**:
- Tree-planting
- Improved Forest Management
- Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation of forests (REDD)

*(EM) Ecosystem Marketplace data*