

Anthrotect Project Showcase: Chocó-Darién Conservation Corridor

The Chocó-Darién Conservation Corridor was the first conservation project in the world to be awarded carbon credits for protecting community-owned forests. Activities are managed by COCOMASUR, a vibrant association of Afro-Colombian families that received land title to the area in 2005. The project protects 13,465 hectares (33,275 acres) of tropical rainforest in the Darién region of northwest Colombia, one of the most biologically diverse regions on the planet.



Location: Northwest Colombia on the Caribbean coast

Population: 1,992 people (419 families) across 9 villages

Area: 13,465 hectares (33,273 acres)

Project Type: REDD+ (VCS/CCB)

Project Developer: Anthrotect S.A.S.

Project Implementer/Owner: COCOMASUR, an Afro-Colombian landholder association

Goals: Rainforest protection, job creation, community development, preservation of Afro-Colombian traditional culture, investment in sustainable forest products, and biodiversity conservation

Time Horizon: 30 years, started Oct 18, 2010

Pay for Performance: Buyers contract to purchase a specified amount of credits each year at a fixed price

The Chocó-Darién project provides jobs and opportunities for a resilient rural community

- Community manages over 50% of the revenue from each credit sale
- Organizational oversight, capacity building, and coaching provided by *Fondo Acción*
- Employees are recruited from local villages
- 40 full and part-time jobs created in a rural, post-conflict setting
- Jobs range from managerial positions to community outreach specialists and forest rangers
- Career opportunities and flexible work arrangements for youth and women, especially single mothers



The Chocó-Darién project reduces CO₂ emissions from deforestation and forest degradation

- Activities are designed to halt the conversion of tropical rainforest to cattle ranches
- Carbon credits are issued after verification by external auditors every 1-2 years
- Expected total reductions of 2.8 million tons of CO₂ over 30 years (average 90,000 tons per year)
- First batch of 100,000 carbon credits already issued in July, 2012
- Project GHG reductions equivalent to the emissions of 25,000 cars each year
- Over 500 hectares (1,200 acres) of rainforest saved as of Jun 30, 2014



The Chocó-Darién project protects threatened tropical rainforest in a critical biodiversity hotspot



- Awarded Gold Level certification by the Climate, Community, and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) for its exceptional biodiversity benefits
- Adjacent to 2 UNESCO Natural World Heritage sites
- Over 500 species of birds registered in the project area, including 88 migratory species
- 42 endangered animal species, including Baird's tapir, the great green macaw, and the Colombian spider monkey
- 86 species of endemic plants with 15 endangered species and many more unknown to science
- World-class amphibian habitat, including the rare golden poison dart frog

The Chocó-Darién project sets new standards for community-based natural resource management

- Community-driven project design, planning, and evaluation under the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation
- Ongoing Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) process that exceeds IFC standards
- Financial oversight and capacity building provided by *Fondo Acción*, a Colombian environmental fiduciary



Everildys Cordoba
Community Leader
COCOMASUR

"This partnership is an opportunity for COCOMASUR to access tools and resources to strengthen our organization's capacity, improve quality of life, and empower local families to protect our forests and our culture."