

The RUSSAS Project

Rural Forest Community Project Protecting Tropical Rainforest and Bio-diversity in the State of Acre, Brazil

A community enhancement and rainforest bio-diversity conservation project, known as a reduced emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD +) on respectively 41,976 hectares of privately-owned land in Acre, Brazil.

Location

The Russas Project (*Project*) is located within the Brazilian State of Acre, entirely within the Amazonian Basin, and home to communities and families living amongst these properties.

The property totals 41,976 hectares of pristine tropical rainforest in the world's most biologically diverse region.

Project Overview



The *Project* will preserve over 102,000 acres of rare and threatened tropical rainforest eco-system while simultaneously providing this rural community with sustainable economic opportunities and direct payments for forest conservation.

The project area is facing extensive deforestation pressures as a result of subsistence agriculture, cattle ranching, and the paving of highway thru the Project zone. *Russas* will mitigate deforestation and preserve the Project's rich bio-diversity while simultaneously generating sustainable economic and educational opportunities for the local community and children.

Russas serves as the model for successfully utilizing carbon credit revenues as the best approach to preserving these extraordinary forest eco-systems and helping these individual families to have a better life. The project is validated to the highest standards including the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) and Climate, Community, and Biodiversity Standard (CCBS) Gold Level.



About Carbonfund.org Foundation

Carbonfund.org is a leading North American foundation in the realm of REDD + conservation and community programs focused on Acre, Brazil rainforests.

Carbonfund.org REDD projects assist, local communities, local governments and stakeholders to protect the Amazon Rainforest, sensitive habitats, and endangered species, while building better lives for families and children in the community.

Our projects are certified to the highest standards of environmental protection and community enhancement.

Project Name (s)	Russas Project		
Location	Acre, Brazil	Standards	Verified Carbon Standard
Total Property Size	41,976 ha (102,000 ac)		Climate, Community & Biodiversity
Carbon Credits / Yr	122,000	Partners	Carbon Securities
Project Lifetime	Crediting – 30 Years		TerraCarbon
	Permanence – up to 110 Years		Tecman LTDA
Validator	Environmental Services Inc.		Federal University of Acre
Validation Date	June 2014		

Protecting Bio-diversity



Regional studies in the Southwestern Amazon, particularly in Acre, have demonstrated some of the highest levels of biodiversity in the world.

There are an estimated one to two million animal species in the Amazon including howler monkeys, freshwater dolphins, and scarlet macaws; while also providing habitat for 30,000 endemic plants. If Russas is converted to cattle pasture, these threatened animal and plant species would virtually disappear from the Project area due to a substantial reduction in habitat.

With nearly 1/3 of all known species and the largest network of freshwater contained in the Amazon Rainforest – *Russas* aims to protect these remaining forests and associated bio-diversity by permanently preventing threats of cattle ranches, slash-and-burn agriculture, and commercial agriculture to the Project area.

Sustainable and Significant Community Benefits

Community enhancement and helping children is an essential component of the success of *Russas*. The Project will generate sustainable economic opportunities for members of the local community including:

1. *School and Educational Opportunities for Local Children*
2. *Development of a Health Clinic*
3. *Woman empowerment programs (social entrepreneurial)*
4. *New Homes for Families*
5. *Direct Payments to Families*
6. *Agricultural Training Programs*
7. *Job Creation*
8. *Social Projects and Programs*



Certifications and Standards

The Project is developed to the **Climate, Community and Biodiversity Standard** (CCBS, Second Edition) and the **Verified Carbon Standard**. Furthermore, the Project is aligned with the **REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards** and the **State of Acre's Payment for Ecosystem Services** program.

Honoring Chico Mendes (December 15, 1944 – December 22, 1988)

Chico Mendes was a Brazilian Rubber tapper from the State of Acre sustainably harvesting sap from rubber trees weekly and drying the sap to form rubber. Mendes also supported himself and his family by gathering and selling nuts and fruits from the rainforest land. Many local Brazilians in Acre, however, attempted to make large short-term profits by chopping down trees and converting forest lands to cattle pastures. In fact, each year approximately, 30 million acres of forest were destroyed for such purposes. Mendes sought to defend the forest and even establish forest reserves. This automatically made him an enemy of cattle ranchers. In 1988, Mendes was assassinated by local ranchers in front of his home in Rio Branco, a small city in Acre. Our project is dedicated to Chico Mendes, as the landowners were his personal friends and created these projects in his honor. Percentage of funds from our Acre portfolio are being donated to Chico Mendes Memorial Foundation for environmental and educational programs.



To learn more about this project or support via carbon credit procurement, please contact:

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