

The Rimba Raya Biodiversity Reserve Project



Estimated Annual Offset Credit Generation:
2.5 million

Standard:
Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS) and Climate,
Community and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) standards



International experts agree land use will be key to reducing the amount of greenhouse gases released into our atmosphere. Research by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has found that an average of 5.8 gigatons of carbon dioxide were emitted due to land use changes from 2000 – 2005. According to data sourced by the Environmental Defence Fund Indonesia and Brazil rank only behind the United States and China as the world's biggest

emitters when land use changes are taken into account.

The Rimba Raya Biodiversity Reserve Project is located on nearly 100 hectares of tropical peat swamp adjacent to the Tanjung National Park in the province of Central Kalimantan, Borneo, Indonesia, an area is under pressure from encroaching palm oil plantations. Destroying peat swap forest, in addition to releasing millions of tonnes of carbon dioxide, would destroy the habitat of a huge diversity of plant and wild, including the endangered organutan.

The project aims to create a buffer of reserved forest around the national park and is a pioneer in the field of "reducing greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and (forest) degradation" (or REDD).

It has a three fold goal of protecting the climate through greenhouse gas emission reductions, preserving biodiversity and strengthening the community and aims to be assessed against both the Voluntary Carbon Standard 2007 and Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance standards.



Protecting the Climate

The Rimba Raya reserve area has been targeted for clearance, drainage, and conversion to a palm oil plantation, a process that would oxidize the peat deposits underlying most of these lands and release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

The project, with the establishment of the reserve, will both protect the area from deforestation and rehabilitate the parts of the area that have already been degraded by illegal logging. Implementation of the project has led to the development of a network of guard posts and fire towers, a fire response and prevention plan, and the upcoming hiring and training of a dedicated corps of guards and fire fighters.

As a result of these efforts, the project is anticipated to reduce 18.5 million tons of carbon dioxide from being emitted in the first ten years of implementation, and up to 75 million tonnes in the 30 year life of the project.

The project's emission reductions will be assessed against the Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS), established in 2005 by the Climate Group, the International Emissions Trading Association and the World Economic Forum. It has established robust, transparent methodologies and a network of registries, which have led it to become the leading international standard for voluntary emission reduction credits. VCS is widely believed to be one of the standards whose offsets may be accepted by impending US regulations for early action credit.

Additional Benefits

The project will also have biodiversity and community benefits and will be assessed by the the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA). CCBA is a partnership of research institutions, corporations and non-governmental organizations that has established one of the most rigorous land use standards to date. Only projects that adapt the best practices are eligible for CCBA acceptance. Unlike other standards which focus primarily on emission reductions, CCBA places equal importance on biodiversity and community development. To maintain CCBA accreditation, the project must continue to monitor biodiversity and community impacts as well as emission reductions.

The Rimba Raya reserve is located adjacent to the Tanjung National Park and its world-famous Camp Leakey Orangutan Research Center. The

The project also aims to aid local community development by addressing poverty, hunger, and disease in the surrounding region. The first stage of the program will focus on basic needs like clean water, improved health care, increased yields from agriculture and new employment opportunities. A second stage will focus on less basic needs, such as early childhood education and development, capacity building, and micro-credit. The program will be implemented with reference to the UN Millennium Development Goals for Indonesia.

Host Country Approvals

On May 1 2009, the Indonesian government became the first host country to establish a regulations for the implementation of REDD projects. They set a frame work for key issues such as which areas are eligible for projects, who project proponents may be and what their rights are, and what project approval regulations are.



project intends to implement a comprehensive biodiversity program in partnership with the Orangutan Foundation International to allow for the dozens of endangered species in the area to thrive. In addition, a portion of carbon revenues will be set aside to help support the ongoing activities of the Orangutan Foundation.

These regulations provide investors in Indonesian projects like Rimba Raya additional regulatory certainty over title to their offset credits as well as implementation risk. The Rimba Raya reserve has obtained a legal opinion from a leading Indonesian law firm that it has properly obtained all necessary licenses and followed all regulations set to date.

US Compliance Potential

Although the United States cap and trade policy is not yet certain, the American Clean Energy and Security Act 2009 provides the

best indication of future policy to date. The act, more commonly known as the Waxman-Markey bill, which was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives and currently being considered by the Senate.

The draft specifically supports REDD via a number of mechanisms, including creating a scheme in which offsets generated by REDD activities in developing countries may be used by US-based entities for compliance.

Rimba Raya fits into some of key criteria outlined by the bill:

- Project Design / Type

Peat swamp projects deforestation and degradation projects are envisioned by the bill

- **Conformance to established and recognized baseline and monitoring standards**

The project is being assessed against two of the most rigorous standards in the field to date: the Voluntary Carbon Standard 2007 (VCS 2007) and Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) standards

- Management in accordance with sustainable forestry practices with local community and biodiversity benefits

The project, assessed against CCBA standards, has a strong community development and biodiversity component

- Conformance with host country regulations and standards

The project has obtained a legal opinion that it complies with all current Indonesian regulation and that it has clear, uncontested title to the carbon rights.

For more information about the Rimba Raya reserve or other offsets, please contact us.

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