



Chinchiná River Forestry Project Colombia

Reforestation and watershed protection in
the Andes



This project protects watersheds, improves the region's fresh water supply, conserves soil and biodiversity, and promotes sustainable development amongst local communities.



The Context

The rapid expansion of agriculture and cattle grazing has put Colombia's Andean watersheds under threat. Reforestation of watersheds is critical for Manizales and surrounding municipalities who are highly dependent on sufficient water supplies provided by the Chinchiná River watershed.

The Project

The project is located in the Andean high moors (páramo) and cloud forest areas, and involves reforestation, agroforestry and silvo-pastoral systems in order to increase biodiversity and connect strategic ecosystems in the area. Selected species are reintroduced to the areas for assisted natural regeneration according to the Ministry of Agriculture forestry program law. The project also restores watersheds as part of the Chinchiná River watershed program.

The Benefits

The habitats of significant wildlife in the area are improved, including those of the spectacled bears (*Tremarctos ornatus*) and yellow eared parrots (*Ognorhynchus icterotis*). The project improves the supply of freshwater for local communities and coffee farmers and promotes sustainable conservation, research and ecotourism. In addition, it has created jobs for locals and enhanced economic development in the region by generating additional income sources for farmers and supporting small-scale local industries.

Most of the money generated from the sale of carbon credits (70 per cent) goes to the farmers who own the land. Another 20 per cent goes into a biodiversity fund, which will help protect the region's incredible plant and animal life.



70 %

of carbon credit revenues support local farmers owning the land



600,000 people

benefit from improved freshwater supply



24,299 tCO₂e

reduced per year



2,030 hectares

of forest planted

For more information on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, please visit: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

Official name: Forestry Project for the Basin of the Chinchiná River, an Environmental and Productive Alternative for the City and the Region
Registry link: <https://registry.verra.org/app/projectDetail/VCS/1378> | **Registry ID:** 1378