

Climate Community and Biodiversity (CCB) Monitoring Plan V2.1

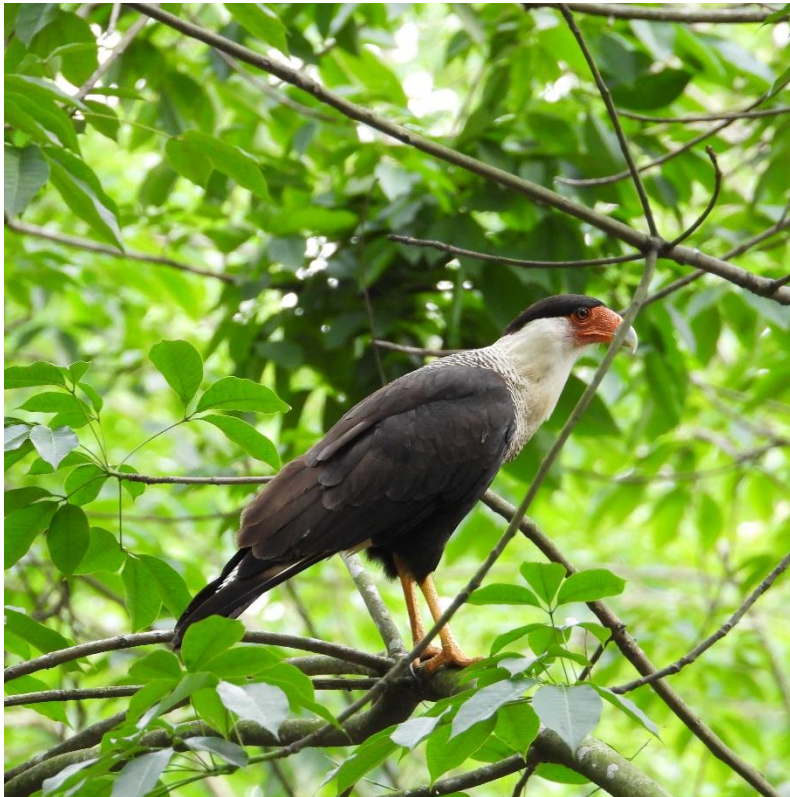
Promoting Sustainable Development through Natural Rubber Tree Plantations in Guatemala

Updated by:

Negocios Energéticos de Occidente, S.A.

Date of completion of this version of the Monitoring Plan:

August 2024



INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

This document presents the monitoring plan, as proposed in the Project Design Document, published on 3rd June 2013. The monitoring plan has been published to provide a stand-alone document which will be referenced during the Verification of the Promoting Sustainable Development through Natural Rubber Tree Plantations in Guatemala (PROMOTING) project. The project duration is 42 years. The landowners and project proponent will be responsible for monitoring the project and have acknowledged the responsibilities outlined in the monitoring plan.

This monitoring plan has been developed in accordance with all requirements of the Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS) and the Climate Community and Biodiversity Association (CCBA). The carbon stock changes, which are a major component to the climate activities of the CCB standard, are monitored as required by the CDM methodology AR- ACM0001 v03. The remaining Community and Biodiversity monitoring will be presented in the “Theory of change” format, as described in the CCBA “Social and Biodiversity Impact Assessment” documentation¹.

PROJECT PROPONENT

Negocios Energéticos de Occidente, S.A. (NEOSA) is the Project proponent however the owners of each farm are as follows:

Organization name	Corporación Pecuaria Nacional, S.A. (Palmeras Farm)
Role in the Project	Project Participant
Contact Person	Luis Rodrigo Zúñiga
Title	Farm owner
Address	12 avenida 15-15, Zona 10 Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala
Telephone	
Email	lrzuniga@cpn.com.gt

Organization name	Ingenio Magdalena, S.A. (Los Patos and Asunción Farms)
Role in the project	Project Participant

¹ CCBA Documents, Social and Biodiversity Impact Assessment. <http://www.climate-standards.org/documents/>

Contact Person	Javier E. Rodríguez Rodas
Title	Forestry Division Manager
Address	22 Avenida Vista Hermosa III, 11-00 zona 15 Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala
Telephone	
Email	erodriguez@imsa.com.gt

Organization name	Compañía Agrícola El Horizonte, S.A. (El Horizonte Farm)
Role in the Project	Project Participant
Contact Person	Elder Pérez / Paola Vásquez
Title	Agricultural Division Manager / Administrative Manager
Address	9a. Calle, 3-62 zona 1 Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala
Telephone	
Email	elope1971@gmail.com ; paolavasquez_@hotmail.com

Organization name	La Vega de Talismán, S.A. (Bello Horizonte Horizonte Farm)
Role in the Project	Project Participant
Contact Person	Enrique Alejos
Title	Owner
Address	Diagonal 3, Calzada Atanasio Tzul 43-15 Zona 12, Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala
Telephone	
Email	eac@uniongt.com

OTHER ENTITIES INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT

Econegocios has been contracted to design this project. Econegocios has been responsible for producing all the documentation for the validation and verification of this project. Econegocios is the main contact point for the validation agency during the initial validation and subsequent verification processes.

Contact person: Isabel Aguirre

Role: Climate Community and Biodiversity coordinator for the group

Address: 5 Avenida 11-70 Zona 1, Edificio Herrera, 5to nivel, Oficina 5D, ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala.

Telephone: (502) 2238-0608

Email: iaguirre@econegocios.com.gt

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The project has established rubber tree plantations on 1,433.36 hectares of degraded and degrading lands where the traditional use was cattle grazing. The rubber tree plantations serve as a buffer zone and biological corridor for the natural forests and areas of High Conservation Value that are located within and next to the project area.

Main goal:

To create a model of sustainable competitiveness, unique of its kinds worldwide, in the natural rubber sector and could serve as a model for further restoration in the area. This project will be both a financial and best practice model that integrates income from rubber products as well as carbon through proper technical management. To create this model, secondary goals are created to meet the project's main goal.

Secondary Goals:

Decrease adverse effects of climate change via carbon sequestration.

The project will have a positive impact on the surrounding population by providing a long-term jobs, legal benefits, training, and health benefits. The project will also provide the necessary investment to overcome financial, technological and knowledge barriers. The project will relieve barriers related to the lack of access to necessary materials as well as knowledge related to rubber planting and its management, teaching the nearby communities the skills essential for rubber production. The project will also provide the original genetic and vegetative material and infrastructure needed. Guatemalan rubber producers lack knowledge about sustainable management of plantations and sustainable and responsible forest management, which the project will provide.

The project will allow sustainable management to be implemented to change several common aspects of rubber cultivation such as chemicals, integrated pest management, and the implementation of a long term management plan – under common practice the rubber trees are burned once their productive life span comes to an end, but this project promotes plantations to be harvested for wood products.

During the project implementation, approximately 70% of lumber processed in Guatemala originated in native conifer forests. The project proposes to modify the rubber business model by integrating wood into the biomass processing industry as high value product or energy generation, reducing pressure on native forests.

The project is expected to have a net positive impact on the environment given the change of 1,433.36 hectares from pasture to natural rubber tree plantations; this also implies recovery of degraded soil and mitigates the effects by wind and water. Communities may also be indirectly benefited through donations and project outreach.

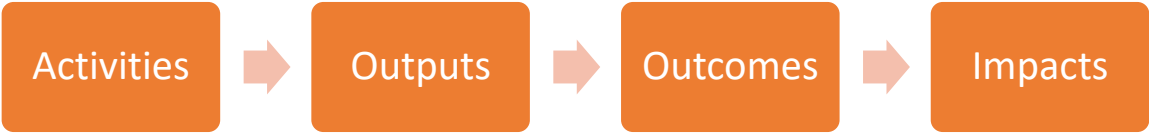
The project area will function as a buffer zone to rivers and natural reserve, mitigating some of the negative impacts of flooding in the area. Forest cover will also help water recharge areas.

The project will protect high conservation value zones and mitigate degradation and depredation of those areas by providing buffer zones and biological corridors.

The project will also have an aesthetic positive impact on the landscape as vegetation is recovered since rubber trees are native to tropical forests in America.

MONITORING METHODS

The community and biodiversity project activities will be monitored using the “Theory of change” method as described within the CCBA Standard’s Social and Biodiversity Impact Assessment guidelines. It is anticipated that larger impacts will be visible in the long term. Therefore, the monitoring of these activities will rely on Outputs and Outcomes:



The variables to be monitored and the timeframes have been identified and the expected Outputs, Outcomes and Impacts have been speculated in this report. There is a mixture of options to report the monitoring of suggested activities including reports, statements and observations.

Due to the project comprising a single project activity across land areas, one monitoring technique can be used to determine multiple project impacts. Where possible, all the activities to be monitored are listed, and the measurable outcomes of these are identified.

COMMUNITY IMPACT MONITORING PLAN

Activity	Outputs	Outcomes	Impacts	Monitoring Frequency
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Creating Economic Opportunities				
Provide economic opportunities for the community	Members of the community derive work opportunities from the project	Members of the community support the project and communicate this to other community members	The community supports the project because members derive economic benefits from the project	Every verification
	Members of the community are directly or indirectly benefited from project philanthropy	Members of the community support the project and communicate this to other community members	The community supports the project because members derive economic benefits from the project	Every verification
	Workers receive specialized training and other educational formation	Members of the community have more specialized skill sets and improve their education.	The community has more economic opportunities and education.	Every verification
	Worker occupational safety is prioritized through safety equipment and training	Number of worker health related incidents is reduced	The community supports the project due to worker safety improvements and are favor work.	Every verification
	Project complies with local laws: national laws on labor matters, land tenure, environmental law	Worker relationships improve, no legal incidents are recorded	The project does not suffer from legal infractions, workers favor employment in project	Every verification
Provide equal employment opportunity	Increase number of women involved in project	Members of the community support the project and communicate this to other community members	Increased women empowerment	Every year
Improving Ecosystem Services				
Providing ecosystem service benefits for the community	Improved landscape perceptions	Members of the community support the project and communicate this to other	The community supports the project due to the positive landscape changes it creates	Every verification event

		community members		
Improving Community Engagement				
Grievance process management	Grievance process strategy is implemented	Social conflict is managed to minimize negative impacts on project	The community supports the project due to the positive relationship created	Every year
Provide community improvements	Project supports community specific needs through donations or support.	Community improves infrastructure and services.	Community has a stronger association with project.	Every verification event.

BIODIVERSITY IMPACT MONITORING PLAN

Activity	Outputs	Outcomes	Impacts	Monitoring Frequency
Long-term ecosystem monitoring				
Maintenance of HCV	HCVA defined, monitoring results	No negative impact on HCVA	Improved quality of HCVA, conservation	Annually or every verification event

Monitoring of significant conservation species	Camera captures of species, significant sightings, and abundance in the project area	Understanding the population dynamics of species and if species are using increased forest connectivity, conservation status of species	Adaptive management of significant species conservation mechanisms	Annually or every verification event
Monitoring habitat condition	Inventory of habitat condition in the project area, fire incidents, invasive species monitoring, land use/forest change	Understanding the impact of natural process and human activity on habitat quality	Adaptive habitat management	Annually or every verification event
Monitoring indicators of forest health	Monitoring indicators of forest health and agroforestry systems	Understanding the natural process of forest development	Adaptive habitat management	Annually or every verification event
Management of effectiveness monitoring				
Agrochemical use management	Agrochemical management strategy is implemented	Agrochemicals are all recorded, and use is registered	Impact of agrochemicals on native ecosystems is reduced	Annually or every verification event

REPORTING

Climate activity reporting is now being conducted at longer time intervals due to the size of the project. Activities are reported at every verification event, even if they are monitored yearly. Additional information on non-reported but monitored activities can be requested.

All fieldwork and calculations shall be re-visited and updated if necessary, at every verification event and carbon sequestration shall be checked alongside the model outputs. The model outputs shall be recalibrated if required. In this event, a report will be issued detailing any changes found, which covers the climate activities. All community and biodiversity activities will be addressed individually, providing a statement on the current observable outputs and outcomes. Where appropriate, new activities could be suggested and included in a new monitoring structure.

APPENDIX 1: DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version	Date	Comment
V01	January 2015	First version completed
V02	June 2023	<p>Main updates:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Overall reformatting 2) Updated project proponent 3) Updated contact information for all participants 4) Inclusion of project goals. 5) Update of following Project Activity Impact: Improved water quality 6) Updated frequency of indicators 7) New variables included for activity: Provide economic opportunities for the community 8) Removal activity: Provide opportunities for community involvement in planning as this is now only included as part of stakeholder consultations 9) Addition activity: Provide community improvements 10) Addition activity: Maintenance of HCVA 11) Improved variables for: Monitoring of significant conservation species, Monitoring habitat conditions, Monitoring indicators of forest health. 12) Chemical term updated to agrochemical 13) Updated reporting summary