# TAMBOPATA-BAHUAJA BIODIVERSITY RESERVE

## Land-use transformation and biodiversity conservation in Peru

The Tambopata-Bahuaja Biodiversity Reserve conserves threatened tropical rainforest in an internationally recognised biodiversity hotspot of the Peruvian Amazon. The lush forests provide habitat for a wide variety of rare and endangered wildlife. The project integrates conservation and sustainable economic development to protect 591,951 hectares forest (an area about the size of Los Angeles). By helping local farmers transition to sustainable cacao production in the margins of the protected area, degraded land is being restored to relieve deforestation pressures and provide local communities with forest-friendly and sustainable livelihoods. The project is part of the Althelia Climate Fund and implemented in partnership with AIDER, a local Peruvian NGO.


### Project areas and its threats

The Tambopata-Bahuaja Biodiversity Reserve is located in Madre de Dios, a region in southeastern Peru in the Amazon Rainforest. The project area includes the Tambopata National Reserve and the Bahuaja Sonene National Park, whose landscapes are threatened by illegal mining, logging, 'slash and burn' agriculture, and infrastructure development.

Mining poses the greatest threat to this landscape. Large numbers of mostly small-scale miners use highly polluting technology, including mercury waste, that contaminates the areas rivers and the local water supply. The proximity and expansion of major roads, such as the Inter-Oceanic Highway, exacerbate the threat by facilitating access to mining opportunities in the forest.

A number of social and environmental challenges are complicated by the competing forces of economic need and limited opportunities. Infrastructure development and migration are stimulated by natural resource extraction, but poverty rates remain high, pollution has increased, deforestation and forest degradation threaten biodiversity and habitat, and the health and well-being of the local and indigenous communities are compromised by sex-trafficking and disease.

## Measurable impacts

We track seven impact areas across all of our projects, and this project also produces sustainable commodities. Here are the targets to the end of 2021 for Tambopata-Bahuaja:

**CLIMATE:** 4.0 million tonnes of $CO_2$ emissions avoided

**ECOSYSTEMS:** 591,851 hectares of threatened forests protected

**SPECIES:** 30 High Conservation Value species protected including giant otter, blue-headed macaw and giant armadillo

**LIVELIHOODS:** 632 jobs created or supported

**INCLUSIVITY:** 27% of jobs held by women

**SUSTAINABLE ENTERPRISE:** Developing a cacao cooperative including building a cacao processing facility

**FAIR ECONOMIC RETURN:** €3.1m contributed to local economy

**SUSTAINABLE COMMODITIES:** Fair Trade and Organic fine, aromatic cacao; Brazil nuts

## Mitigating climate change

The Tambopata-Bahuaja project addresses the drivers of deforestation by investing in commercially viable cacao agroforestry systems and using climate finance to reward forest monitoring and stewardship. By demonstrating a scalable model of environmentally and socially sustainable land use, the project creates a productive barrier against encroaching threats to the region's natural and human capital. The avoided deforestation as a result of the Tambopata-Bahuaja project reduces global emissions by over 4.2 million tonnes of $CO_2$ by 2021 — approximately equivalent to 453,000 homes' energy use for a year.

In 2015, Tambopata-Bahuaja won the UNFCCC Momentum for Change Award for innovation and excellence in tackling climate change.

Copyright: Marlon Dag
Two macaws flirting

## Protecting biodiversity

Tambopata–Bahuaja protects over 30 high conservation value (HCV) species, including the giant armadillo, blue-headed macaw, jaguar, and giant river otter. HCV species are defined as those with biological, ecological, social or cultural value that is considered outstandingly significant or critically important at national, regional or global level.

Copyright: Marlon Dag
Sunset over the Tambopata-Bahuaja Landscape

In particular climate finance invested by our customers aims to:

- **Improve forest protection measures:** Strengthen surveillance activities within the Reserve to identify human influences and predict and prevent activities that degrade the forest, through employing additional rangers and constructing ranger stations.
- **Perform biological monitoring:** Monitor and record HCV species health and numbers in the forest.
- **Support biological research:** The Reserve is an internationally recognised biodiversity hotspot, therefore help to coordinate and facilitate biological and conservation research and knowledge.

## Working with communities

The strength of the Tambopata-Bahuaja project lies in the strength of the local and indigenous communities. Community engagement, empowerment, and social inclusivity is essential to the long-term success of the project goals, and climate finance enables the local people to become drivers of their own transformation. Local communities, mostly small-scale farmers and three indigenous communities - Palma Real, Sonene and Infierno - play a pivotal role in forest monitoring, preventing illegal encroachment, and developing the cooperative of cacao farmers. They ensure the integrity of the project locally which is key to the project's global climate impact.

The project aims to have at least 15% of all jobs created held by women.

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A COOPASER farmer's children playing

### NESTED CREDITS

Carbon credits generated by the Tambopata-Bahuaja Reserve REDD+ project are formally acknowledged by the Peruvian Ministry of Environment (MINAM) and are accounted for in the country's national registry through a 'nested' approach. Nesting our project within Peru's REDD+ programme means that the retired carbon credits, even internationally transacted ones, are not double counted. Avoiding double counting is essential to achieving a 1.5°C warming scenario and ensures the credibility of corporate climate action claims.

Copyright: Marlon Dag
Cacao farmer, Aurelia, proudly displays the fruit of her effort

**LAND RIGHTS**
Our NGO partner on the ground, AIDER, has been working in Madre de Dios since 2002, and to date has secured 288 land titles for local farmers. Land titles provide farmers with much needed legal recognition and security.

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Forest friendly cacao at COOPASER's post-harvest facility

## Sustainable economic development

The project works collaboratively with local communities to advance sustainable economic development. By integrating conservation and production activities, the project aims to support 632 jobs by 2021. AIDER works closely with local communities to restore 4,000 hectares of degraded land to cultivate high quality cacao. By 2021, the project will have aggregated 400 smallholder farmers into the COOPASER cooperative it founded in 2014.

**SUSTAINABLE ENTERPRISES**
Small enterprises are crucial to creating positive change in rural communities, but many of them lack sufficient capacity or market connections to succeed and scale. The project provides support for COOPASER – a farmer-driven association that provides technical assistance, infrastructure for post-harvest management, quality control, and a route to market.

**COMMODITIES**
Organic, Fair Trade cacao production is being introduced in the 'buffer zone' surrounding the protected area with the ultimate goal of achieving commercial scale. Over 1 million cacao trees have now been planted.

In 2017, the construction of a cacao processing facility was completed. This is one of the key mechanisms for addressing the drivers of deforestation in the region. Using the facility to manage volumes and quality control enables farmers to obtain greater value per hectare for their cacao and better access to international markets.

## Project implementing partner

The Asociacion para la Investigacion y Desarollo Integral (AIDER) is our partner on the ground, a Peruvian NGO focused on environmental conservation and sustainable development.

## External standards

The Tambopata-Bahuaja project is validated by the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS project ID 1067) and the Climate, Community, and Biodiversity Standard (CCB) to the gold level for both biodiversity and for climate change adaptation.

The Tambopata-Bahuaja project advances many Sustainable Development Goals

# Tambopata-Bahuaja Biodiversity Reserve

Impact targets for 2021

## ECOSYSTEMS

**591,851 ha** protected and **4,000 ha** land restored to produce high value fine and aromatic cacao. **1 million trees** planted.

## CLIMATE

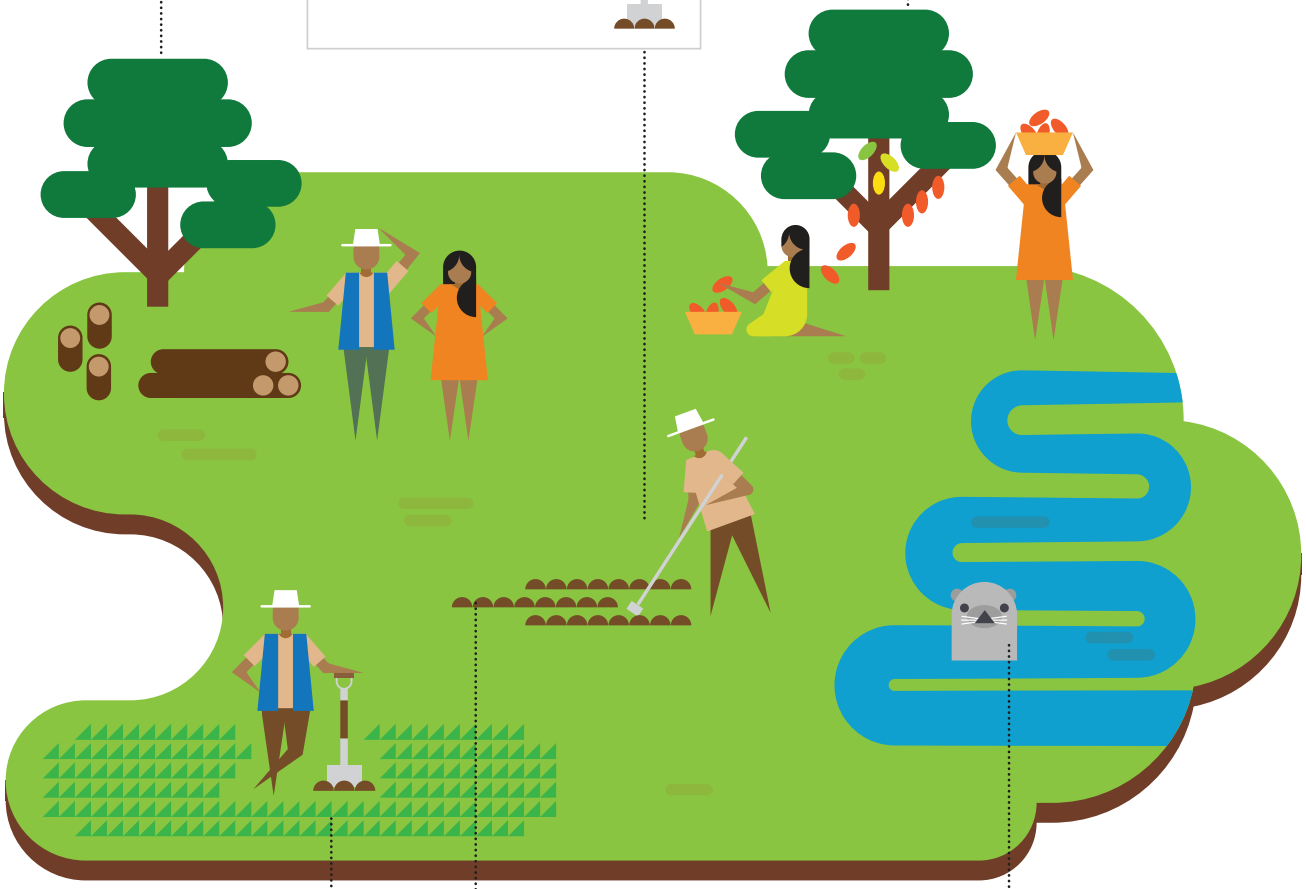
**4.0m carbon credits**

(tonnes $CO_2$)

## INCLUSIVITY

**339 land titles**

secured for local farmers



## SUSTAINABLE ENTERPRISE

Cacao cooperative established. Target 100% organic & Fair Trade certified.

**611 cacao production jobs** supported out of a total **632 jobs**.

## LIVELIHOODS

**274 farmers** are members of the cooperative supporting **1,152 people**

**27%** of farmers are women

## SPECIES

Over **30 HCV** species protected including giant river otters, spider monkeys and jaguars

All numbers are targets are for 2021 unless otherwise stated

ecosphere+