

# MONTES DEL ESTE CARBON OFFSET PROJECT



The MONTES DEL ESTE project is a long-term investment in lands and forests of Uruguayan pension funds (AFAP). It is located in eastern Uruguay and consists of approximately seven thousand hectares of land. The aim of the project is to convert degraded grasslands with a long history of cattle grazing into beneficial forest plantations which will aid in restoring the land, by improving soil quality through water retention and delivery of micronutrients to the soil, and by preventing soil erosion.

Well managed forest plantations can obtain high value, long-lived timber products while sequestering large amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Approximately 2,3 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO2) will be sequestered through afforestation of the project which will be verified by the international standard under the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS).



MONTES DEL ESTE is managed using best practices principles while also taking environmental and social commitments into account.

## ENVIROMENTAL BENEFITS



In the field, environmental assessments and impact surveys are carried out by a team of experts. Based on the results obtained in the studies, management and monitoring plans have been developed for the restoration of natural systems which have may have been affected by previous practices such as agriculture, farming, or other activities.

### Conservation & Biodiversity

Tasks include regular monitoring to assess the effects of forestry operations on the soil, pollution and ecosystems. Studies of fauna are carried out to determine species composition and distribution. The fauna survey mainly focuses on tetrapod vertebrates (amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals), to assess diversity within natural and artificial environments during the entire forestry cycle.



The fauna survey records and classifies the different species of fauna which may be present in the sites, both in natural and forested areas with the aim of establishing diversity and richness indexes and indicator species for each area surveyed. The results of these studies provide information about the interaction and dynamics of the different species in connection with forestry activity and thus allow recommendations to be given concerning forest management and/or the establishment of high conservation value (HCV) areas.



### Forest Fire Prevention and Control

MONTES DEL ESTE is part of the PAIF group, which is a forest fire prevention, detection and control program that covers the entire territory of Uruguay. It is made up of the main forestry companies in the country.



- Sustainable development • Land restoration • Forest development
- Protect biodiversity • Maintain wildlife habitats • Carbon offsets
- Mitigate climate change • Community benefits • Job creation



## SOCIAL COMMITMENTS

Business for social responsibility (BSR) is the contribution to a sustainable human development, through the company's commitment and trust towards their employees and their families, towards societies in general and towards local communities with the aim of improving the social capital and the quality of life of the entire community.

### Community Project

MONTES DEL ESTE is related to the stakeholders communities through the implementation of different projects focused on promoting knowledge of the environment and local development.

*Environmental Education:* Workshops on environment and earth sciences at stakeholders rural schools. This includes the visit of students to our operations.

*Family Gardens:* Advice and support for the creation of gardens in schools and neighbors for self consumption.

*Productive projects:* In schools where interest from families is detected, Groups are created to develop local businesses such as orchards, chicken farms, fabrics and nurseries. Advice and accompany are provided to apply for state funds.

### Employees

The project supports its employees in both their professional and personal growth. It is essential for the development of the company to encourage teamwork, and the personal and professional development of each member, in an environment of respect, non-discrimination, trust, commitment, transparency and ethics.

### Occupational Health & Safety

The Health and Safety of any person direct or indirectly related to MONTES DEL ESTE's activities is of the utmost importance. Safety management is a continuous self-improvement process which materializes in a systematic process of risks identification, assessment and control which requires mandatory participation of everyone.



## MONTES DEL ESTE CARBON OFFSET PROJECT VCS-



## CERTIFICATIONS

MONTES DEL ESTE is currently certified by the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®). The FSC® is an internationally renowned program that sets the gold standard for responsible forest management.

FSC® certification provides a mechanism for companies, organizations, and communities to demonstrate their commitment to the FSC® Principles and Criteria for responsible forest management.

The FSC® Principles and Criteria (P&C) consists of a set of ten principles on how the forests must be managed to meet the social, economic, ecological, cultural needs and rights of present generations without risking those of the generations to come.

The Project is under VCS Validation and Verification process.



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To access to documentation presented to CCB Validation process (Project Document and Monitoring Report Project), please visit [www.vera.org](http://www.vera.org) and search for the Project.

Project name: **Montes del Este Forest Plantations on degraded grasslands under extensive grazing.**

Sector: **14, Agriculture, Forestry, Land Use**

Methodology: **AR-ACM0001**

Status: **On process to be Validated VCS and First Verification 2016-2020**

Average annual ERs (tCO<sub>2</sub>e/year): **38.005**

Total Net GHG emission reductions or removals (tCO<sub>2</sub>e): **2016-dic 2020: 628.217**

Scheme: **Verified Carbon Standard (VSC)**

Account Holder: **Verra**