

CONSULTORIA ENGENHARIA GERENCIAMENTO ITTO MARKET DISCUSSION YOKOHAMA 2022

## CARBON PROJECTS IN LATIN AMERICA

Is Managing Tropical Forests for Timber and Carbon a Fate or a Fake?

IVAN TOMASELLI - ABIMCI itomaselli@stcp.com.br

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

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<u>Market of carbon credits</u> has expanded and evolved in recent years around the <u>world</u>. Carbon market development is a <u>necessary path</u> in today's world and an <u>opportunity</u>.

<u>Carbon projects</u> have covered a <u>variety of scheme types</u> including REDD+, forestry, biogas, biomass, energy production or conservation, landfill gas capture, manufacturing industries, renewable energy, transportation, waste handling/disposal, and others.

Latin American has experienced a growing interest in carbon credits across different economic sectors as well as transactions among countries/companies aiming at emission reduction and/or reaching zero emissions target. For the forest sector in LATAM, the <u>REDD+ and forestry-related projects</u> are the main schemes.

It is worth analyzing how it has evolved, what are the legal framework, main trends and perspectives, contributions of SFM, and major initiatives and limitations.





Jurisdictions across the world have confirmed their commitment to <u>reduce</u> or achieving <u>net zero</u> <u>emissions</u> by announcing <u>high-level commitments</u> and/or embedding <u>targets in laws and regulations</u>

#### <u>CARBON MARKET MECHANISMS</u>:

#### **CPI – CARBON PRICING INSTRUMENT**

Mandatory (or "compliance") instruments that <u>governments</u> use to put a price on carbon and make <u>regulated</u> entities pay for their emissions:

- EMISSION TRADING SYSTEMS (EST) work on the principle of "cap-and-trade", whereby the government imposes an overall quantity limit on GHG emissions
- CARBON TAXES ('prices') Governments set the carbon price, being the carbon tax rate.

#### **VOLUNTARY OFFSETTING (MARKET)**

Non mandatory basis, not driven by governments regulations, but rather by <u>private individuals and</u> <u>companies</u> who voluntarily engage in carbon markets in order to compensate for their GHG emissions and <u>meet their own carbon-neutrality goals</u>.



#### WORLDWIDE FRAMEWORK



Kyoto Protocol (1997) - one of the world's main agreements related to the reduction of gas emissions to the atmosphere.

<u>Paris Agreement - COP21 (2015)</u> - keep the Earth's average temperature below 2 °C, above pre-industrial levels. In addition to efforts to limit temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels.

• Art. 6 outlines provisions for countries to <u>voluntarily</u> cooperate on Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) achievement through both <u>market-based and non-market-based approaches</u>

The operationalization of Art. 6 is currently still being negotiated among Parties, and defining implementing rules has proven highly contentious.



#### **COUNTRY LEVEL**

#### BRAZIL

LAW No. 12,187, OF DECEMBER 29, 2009 - Establishes the National Policy on Climate Change - PNMC and makes other provisions.

LP 528/2021 - Regulates the Brazilian Emissions Reduction Market (MBRE), determined by the PNMC.

DECREE No. 11,075, OF MAY 19, 2022 - Establishes the procedures for the elaboration of the Sectorial Plans for the Mitigation of Climate Change and creates the National System for the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

#### **COLOMBIA**

In 2017, Colombia implemented a national carbon tax on fossil fuels with a value of USD 5 per ton of CO2 (World Bank, 2021b).

The revenues from Colombia's carbon tax are allocated to the "Sustainable Colombia Fund" (Law 1819 of 2016).

In 2018, Colombia approved Law 1931, and articles 29 and 30 provide for the creation of a "National Greenhouse Gas Emission Trading Quota Program" (PNCTE).

In 2021, Colombia introduced its voluntary program on carbon neutrality.

#### PERU

Peru and Switzerland signed the first BILATERAL "Paris Agreement Implementation Agreement" (Ministry of the Environment, 2020) for achieving their NDC or other mitigation targets (Swiss Confederation & Republic of Peru, 2020).

Although Peru currently has no internal carbon pricing policies, the government has developed a social cost of carbon of USD 7.17 per tCO2e as part of its assessments for public investment projects (Ministry of Economy and Finance, 2021).

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DEMAND SIDE

**Carbon Price Signal (Domestic and International Scale):** 

- <u>Compliance</u>: Domestic Carbon Pricing, Carbon Taxes, Sectoral Schemes (CORSIA), UNFCCC
- <u>Voluntary</u>: Business Responsibility and Personal

#### • SUPPLY SIDE

- <u>Under Emission Trading System- ETS "PERMITS TO EMIT</u>" : generated and distributed by the government (auction/free allocation)
- <u>Under (carbon) CREDITING PROGRAMS</u>: generated at the PROJECT LEVEL, in the context of <u>particular</u> emission reduction or removal activities taking place outside the scope of <u>compliance instruments</u> and following program-specific protocols. The type of carbon credit generated depends on the program or standard through which the units are certified and issued.

The <u>certification body</u>, therefore, plays a central role in the supply of carbon credits, including:

International regimes: CDM/Kyoto Protocol (UNFCCC), VCS (VERRA), Gold Standard (GS), etc.

Domestic regimes: RenovaBio (Brazil), Mexican ETS, Colombia Carbon Tax, and others



# **3. GLOBAL EVOLUTION CARBON PROJECTS**



Issuances and Retirements credits issuances and retirements reported by the American-Carbon-Registry (ACR), ART TREES, the Climate Action Reserve (CAR),-California Air-Resources-Board (CARB), CDM (for credits issued after 2016), City Forest Credits, Climate Forward, Coalition for Rainforest Nations, EcoRegistry, Global Carbon Council, Gold Standard, Plan Vivo, ProClima, and Verified Carbon Standard (VCS). Source: Ecosystem Marketplace / Forest Trends, adapted by STCP (2022). www.stcp.com.br



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## **4. CARBON PROJECTS IN LATAM**



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## **4. CARBON PROJECTS IN LATAM**

### **VERRA AFOLU Projects : BRAZIL, PERU, COLOMBIA**



Fonte: Verra Standards and Programs (2022). Adaptado por STCP (data-base 30/07/2022).



## **4. CARBON PROJECTS IN LATAM**

#### LATIN AMERICA IS:

- Expanding its participation in both <u>Compliance and Voluntary</u> Market
  - Colombia, Mexico, Chile and Argentina are front-runners in <u>Compliance</u> with CPI adoption (regulated)
  - Brazil is mostly Voluntary
- The world's second largest provider of <u>Voluntary</u> Credits
  - In 2020 and 2021 slightly less than 20 % of the total global credit supply came from the region;
  - Peru, Brazil and Colombia are by far the largest contributors of credits in the region, representing more than 80 % (71 MtCO2e) of all LATAM Carbon Credits;
  - VERRA is the most used certification program for Voluntary credits in LATAM, largely due to protocol availability and importance of REDD+ projects in the region.





## **5. SFM AND CARBON IN LATAM**

#### LATIM AMERICA FORESTS AND MANAGEMENT PLANS (LT FMP)

	FOREST AREA	DEFORESTATION	PLANTED FOREST	PRIMARY	PRIMARY FORESTS	
	1000 ha	1000 ha/y	1000 ha	1000 ha	LT FMP	
LATIN AMERICA	874.479	3.126	21.487	299.540	137.771	
% OF WORLD	22%	31%	7%	27%	7%	
SOUTH AMERICA	844.186	2.953	20.245	298.698	133.879	
CENTRAL AMERICA	22.404	168	391	658	1.133	
CARIBBEAN	7.889	5	851	184	2.759	
WORLD	4.058.931	10.150	293.895	1.109.997	2.049.817	

- The region has extensive forest lands (22% of global forests) and high deforestation rate;
- Existing Long Term Forest Management Plans cover an area of 137 million ha (7% of the • global);
- Forests of the region could be managed to produce timber and for Carbon credits. •





#### LATIN AMERICA – POTENTIAL OF CARBON CREDITS IN L-T FMP UNDER REDD+

LATIN AMERICA REGIONS	FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN	AVOIDED DEFORESTATION AREA UNDER REDD+ (*)		GHG EMISSION REDUCTION UNDER REDD+ (*)		ESTIMATED ANNUAL CARBON CREDIT VALUE
	1000 ha	1000 ha/year	1000 ha/30- yearFMP	1000 tCO2-e/year	1000 tCO2-e/30- yearFMP	1000 US\$/year
LATIN AMERICA	148.121 (*)	794	23.821	308.660	9.259.800	1.919.865
SOUTH AMERICA	133.879	718	21.531	278.983	8.369.486	1.735.273
CENTRAL AMERICA	1.133	6	182	2.361	70.830	14.685
CARIBBEAN	2.759	15	444	5.749	172.480	35.761
MEXICO (*)	10.350 (*)	55	1.664	21.567	647.004	134.146

(\*) Estimated

Assumptions:

• 2,08 tCO2-e/hectare year (Amazon Project)

5,36 hectare (avoided deforestation)/ 1000 hectare under LTFMP (30 years) (Amazon Project)

• Carbon Price – Voluntary Market (Nature Based-Offset) (Oct/22) = US\$ 6,22/tCO2-e

Source: Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 (FRA, FAO). Adapted by STCP



### **5. SFM AND CARBON IN LATAM**

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#### REALITY

- Latin America has around 25% of the total global Carbon Credit issued and almost 80% are REDD+ and Forestry types projects, but only few forest areas managed to produce timber in the region consider the generation of Carbon Credits;
- Registered Carbon Projects in Brazil, involving forests areas managed for timber production, generate annual credits of around 2 t/ha of CO2e;
- A SFM project covering an area of 80 thousand ha of tropical forests managed for timber production, assessed in 2019, pointed out that the annual contribution of Carbon to the total revenue was over 10%. This indicates that Carbon Credits from areas managed for timber production is an alternative to generate additional and significant revenues;
- The estimated potential annual Carbon Credits generation in Latin America, considering the existing managed forest areas for timber production, is around US\$2 billion per year. As Carbon prices are increasing due to demand, and revenues are expected to be even higher;
- Other alternatives involving forests in the region are under consideration, such as projects of forest restauration designed to generate Carbon Credits as the main revenue, being timber production complementary.

## **5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **Conclusions**

- Carbon market development is a necessary path to reduce or achieve net zero emission target and also an opportunity to those managing forests. There is an extensive worldwide legal framework involving carbon credits and countries are developing their own laws and regulations;
- Issuance of Carbon Credit started in early 2000, and has grown faster in the last 10 years. Credits issue achieved around 400 million t CO2e in 2021, out of this total around 50% are REDD+ and Forestry type;
- Latin America represents 25% of the total global credits issued and 80% are of REDD+ and Forestry type, basically traded in the Voluntary market. Despite this only few forest areas managed to produce timber in the region have registered projects to issue Carbon Credits;
- Carbon Credits from areas managed for timber production is an important alternative and additional source of revenues. Market demand for Carbon Credits is growing, but forest owners and the timber industry managing forest still have limitations to develop and register projects to issue Credits.

#### **Recommendations**

- Assess limitations/ constraints faced by forest owners and the timber industry managing forests to develop and register projects to issue and trade Carbon Credits;
- Based on the assessment define a program to improve the knowledge and provide technical assistance aiming to develop sustainable management plans integrating timber production and the generation of Carbon Credits.



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Headquarters

Rua Euzébio da Motta 450 – Juvevê 80530-260 Curitiba – PR – Brazil

Phone +55 41 3252-5861

www.stcp.com.br

