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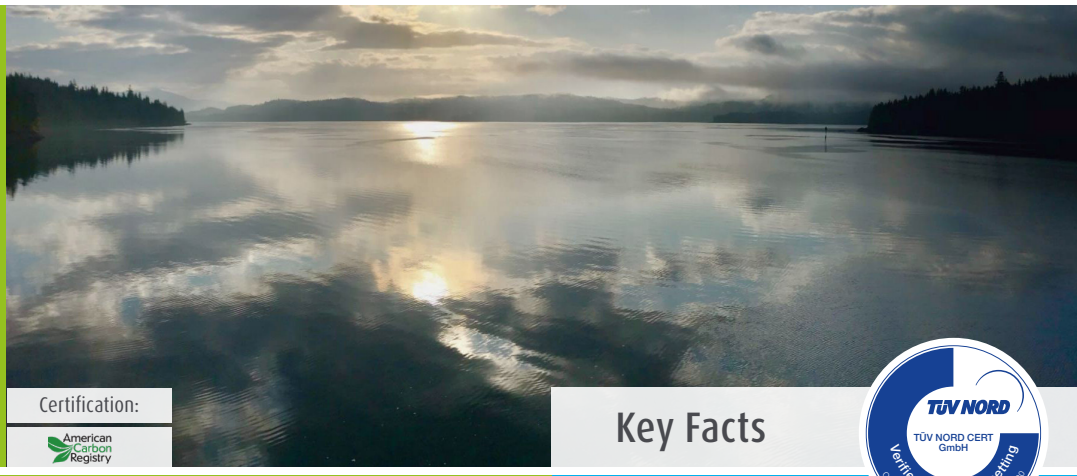
Green Energy, Climate Neutral, Water

Dedicated, Naturally.

USA:
Protecting Alaska's Forests

Improved forest management in Kootznoowoo, Alaska



Certification:

American Carbon Registry

Key Facts

TÜV NORD CERT GmbH – Verified Carbon Offsetting

Location:
Alaska, USA

Project type:
Improved Forest Management

Total emission reductions:
▹▹ 160,000t CO_2e p.a. ◃◃

Project standard:
American Carbon Registry

Project start date:
August 2018

Additional Volumes available from similar projects in the US

Background

Prince of Wales Island, Alaska, is largely covered by the Tongass National Forest which is the largest national forest in the USA and the world's largest intact temperate rainforest. Many of the trees in this area are centuries old and vital habitats to local wildlife. The Tongass National Forest is also home to the largest known concentration of bald eagles. Spreading from beaches to high elevation areas, the forests of the Kootznoowoo project offer a variety of ecosystems. The area is home to animals such as the Stika black-tailed deer, black bear, moose, beaver and land otter. The area also has 12 fish-bearing streams with several salmon species and trout.

Throughout much of the 1900s, the area has been heavily deforested; particularly towards the end of the century, when the forest was a significant source of timber to the Japanese market. During the 1980s and 1990s, around 1,700 acres of forest were cleared on an annual basis. Prior to the project, the area had no protection aside from fisheries best management practice and the Bald Eagle Protection Act, which only protects trees that are identified to contain active nests.

The Project

The Kootznoowoo Project covers 20,159 acres of forest across 4 areas on the Dolomi and Dora Bay regions of Prince of Wales Island. About 42% of the project area is old-growth forest and the project is owned by the native Haida and Tlingit people. The aim of the project is to protect the forest from commercial logging and timber production. Under the program, management of the forest focuses on sustainable and natural forest growth and maintenance harvests for essential activites and forest health. The native landowndners are allowed to carry out non-commercial pruning. Additionally, the project supports a small hydro project that will displace diesel and provide clean electricity whilst improving local air quality.

Sustainable Development

By supporting this project you'll contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

While focusing on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, all our projects also generate multiple co-benefits. These are supportive of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Quality education

The revenue generated through the sale of carbon credits from the Kootznoowoo project goes partially towards support of a local educational fund dedicated to equal opportunities.

Clean water and sanitation

Due to the variety of topographies that the project covers, beaches and other water based ecosystems are impacted by the project activites. Protecting the forest around these water systems allows the trees to serve as a natural filter, purifying the water for all who drink it.

Sustainable cities and communities

Not only does the project protect the forest from logging, it also preserves the sustainable land management practices of the native people who have occupied the lands for more than 1,000 years. Furthermore, it conserves historically and culturally important sites.

Climate action

By committing to keep the forest carbon stocks protected from deforestation, the project provides significant climate benefits through carbon sequestration and encouraging new growth. In addition to this, the addition of hydropower avoids emissions from diesel consumption.

Life below water

Due to the project's location, not only are forests protected, the many marine and coastal ecosystems within it are also protected against significant adverse impacts, are more resilient, and contribute to healthy and productive oceans.

Life on land

The area hosts a varied set of ecosystems that support unparalleled diverse vegetation and wildlife. Alongside many birds, fish and animals, the region also boasts red elderberry, salmonberry, thimbleberry, blueberry, and huckleberry.

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Technology brief – how it works

This project saves forest that would otherwise have been logged and therefore sustains one of its main functions vital to the balance of the earth's ecosystem: the ability of its trees to absorb carbon dioxide. Carbon circulates within a cycle that consists of the atmosphere, the plant, plant litter and the soil. Carbon dioxide drawn from the surrounding atmosphere is an important component of any plant's photosynthesis. The outputs are water, oxygen and carbohydrates. The latter are built into the plant's fibre and thereby fix carbon in the plant's biomass. Ultimately, carbon re-enters the atmosphere from decaying biomass litter or soil respiration.

Deforestation breaks this cycle resulting in multiple negative effects. First, burning biomass directly increases the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Secondly, it reduces the biosphere's absolute capacity to fix carbon. Thirdly, the removal of plant cover accelerates the rate at which carbon fixed in soils is respired into the atmosphere. And lastly, erosion of soils impedes the long-term recovery of vegetation in degraded areas.

Project Standard

American Carbon Registry

The American Carbon Registry (ACR) was founded in 1996 as the first private voluntary greenhouse gas registry in the world. The ACR creates confidence in the environmental and scientific integrity of carbon offsets in order to accelerate transformational emission reduction actions. The ACR Forest Carbon Project Standard v 2.1 details requirements and specifications for the quantification, monitoring, and reporting of forest project-based greenhouse gas emission reductions and removals, methodological acceptance, verification, registration, and issuance of offsets for trade in the global voluntary and U.S. pre-compliance carbon markets.

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For more information on other projects in our portfolio please visit our website:

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