Sustainable Agroforestry Cacao ARR Colombia

Buyer Summary

The Project

The **Sustainable Agroforestry Cacao Project** is an **Afforestation, Reforestation, and Revegetation (ARR) Project** verified under **Verra's VCS and CCB standards**, designed to restore 2,258 hectares of degraded soils through the planting of a **shaded cacao agroforestry** system in Meta, Colombia. In addition to the 1,767 hectares of agroforestry system, the Project also protects 491 hectares of conservation zones and riparian areas. The Project is implemented by Bacao SAS, an experienced entity with demonstrated technical expertise on large scale sustainable production and commercialization of cacao. The goal of the project is producing sustainable cacao by creating **inclusive** and **climate-smart productive ecosystems** in Colombia with support for small holder farmers in the Project Zone.

The Project transforms degraded pasture into a diversified agroforestry system that integrates cacao as the primary perennial crop with native trees, including *Gliricidia sepium* for shade and soil enrichment, and *Cariniana pyriformis* for windbreaks and boundary planting. These species are planted to mimic natural forest systems, **increasing biomass**, **improving microclimates**, and **restoring soil organic carbon**.

The Project also implements a social and technical program, Impulsa Bacao, which supports small farmers from the surrounding communities by **supplying grafted cocoa plants**, **providing technical assistance** to establish agroforestry systems, and **establishing a commercialization system** for direct purchase of cocoa from these farmers, for the cacao to be processed locally and sold in international markets. This program **diversifies the income of farmers** that have historically grown monoculture crops or raised cattle.

Project Activities

The **Sustainable Agroforestry Cacao Project** is transforming degraded pasture into sustainable, productive cacao agroforestry systems. The Project:

- Establishes a diversified cacao agroforestry system with productive and native species.
- Manages and reuses organic residue, such as pruning offcuts and cacao husks, to rebuild soil health.
- Employs over 400 people, providing a stable source of income and improving access to healthcare services.
- Supports community agroforestry through technical assistance and commercialization of community-grown cacao.
- Secures verified results through the validation, verification, and monetization of emission removals and co-benefits.

Project Overview

VCS ID
3450

Location
Meta Department, Colombia

Project Type
Afforestation, Reforestation, and Revegetation (ARR)

Standards
VCS v4.6, CCB v3.1
CCB Gold Climate Adaptation

Methodologies/Modules and Tools
CDM AR-ACM0003

Area
Total Area: 1,767 hectares
MR1: 880 hectares

Communities
404 people employed
49 smallholder farmers

Land Tenure Type
Private Land

1st Crediting Period
40 years (2017–2057)

Estimated VCUs
189,302 VCUs over crediting period
14,561 VCUs average per year over expected 13 years of issuance

First Issuance
August 2025

For further information, contact terraverr@terraglobalcapital.com

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Climate Change Adaptation

Beyond its core climate change mitigation benefits through the restoration of degraded pasture, the Project has additional **CCB Gold–level climate change adaptation benefits**. In particular, the Project addresses climate change impacts in the following ways:

Climate Change Adaptation Outcome	Mechanism for Adaptation
Decreased risk of floods	▪ Soil rehabilitation improves drainage and decreases runoff, a major cause of seasonal floods
Decreased risk of fire	▪ Replacement of flammable degraded pasture with closed-canopy forest and establishment of thorough and effective fire prevention policy that includes regular training and a system for tracking fires
Decreased risk of drought	▪ Improved hydrological function from increased soil health that reduces runoff and increases infiltration
Decreased temperature variability	▪ Tree cover moderates extreme temperatures and protects productive trees from climatic shock, supporting more consistent yields over time
Adaptation to altered dynamics of pests and disease	▪ Establishing integrated pest management systems, including technical capacity building for Impulsa farmers in pest management

Biodiversity

The Project restores ecological function across its 2,258 hectares. The agroforestry system itself enhances on-farm biodiversity by replacing monoculture pastures with structurally complex vegetation. Increasing tree cover in the Project Area helps reconnect the fragmented landscape, providing habitat connectivity. The 491 hectares of conservation zones and riparian area serve as habitat for bird, mammal, reptile, and amphibian species native to the area. Six species of IUCN Red-Listed vulnerable, threatened, or near-threatened birds and mammals have been identified in the Project Area. Biodiversity changes are rigorously monitored through field surveys, transects, camera traps, and participatory mapping.

Carbon Credit Purchase Opportunity

The Project has completed its first verification for 41,516 VCUs and will be selling a portion of this first issuance on a spot basis.

Current Monitoring Period VERRs to be Sold

- Vintage 01-Jan-2022 to 05-Jul-2022 — 8,913 VCUs
- Vintage 01-Jan-2021 to 31-Dec-2021 — 19,138 VCUs
- Total — 28,051 VCUs
- Additional Labels: CCB with Climate Adaptation Gold Level

For further information and interested buyers, contact terraverr@terraglobalcapital.com