SILVACARBON-PERU

The Peruvian Amazon rainforest is one of the world's greatest natural resources. It is considered the "lungs" of the planet; it absorbs carbon dioxide and produces oxygen. Through this process, the Amazon plays a crucial role slowing global climate change by storing atmospheric carbon in the trees and soil. Unfortunately, deforestation and land degradation threaten the Peruvian Amazon. In order to conserve the rainforest decision-makers need accurate and timely information about how the forest is changing. USAID, through the SilvaCarbon program, is helping Peru produce this information by strengthening the Government's forest monitoring capacity.

The Amazon forests support indigenous communities, protect biodiversity and play an important role in the economy of Peru. They also help regulate the Earth's climate by absorbing carbon dioxide (CO2) from the atmosphere and storing it in the trees and soil of the forest. Increases in emissions of Greenhouse Gases like CO2 and loss of forests like the Amazon, which absorb CO2, are causing the Earth's climate to change, which affects the lives of all living beings. SilvaCarbon is a technical cooperation program in which the U.S. Government works with partner countries to manage forests by building their capacity to produce and use improved information related to forest and terrestrial carbon stores. SilvaCarbon works with 23 tropical forested countries and aims to support the Government of Peru (GOP) to improve its carbon mapping and accounting capabilities.

HOW DOES THE ACTIVITY WORK?

SilvaCarbon supports Peruvian agencies and academic institutions through workshops, exchange programs, and direct technical assistance. Peruvian counterparts include the Ministry of the Environment (MINAM), the Peruvian Forest and Wildlife Service (SERFOR), and the Research Institute of the Peruvian Amazon (IIAP). SilvaCarbon collaborates with the GOP to strengthen the national forest inventory system by incorporating remote sensing data and tools to reduce monitoring costs.

RESULTS ACHIEVED

- MINAM has greatly improved its mapping and carbon accounting capabilities as a result of SilvaCarbon support, and now has a system, which is compatible with the requirements of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), to estimate land use change.

- SERFOR improved data analysis and reporting capabilities for the national forest inventory - a key input into the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change reporting requirements. This data serves to calculate the carbon stored in the forest in order to measure reductions in emissions, its composition and distribution and thus contributing to improved policy decision making.

- MINAM has developed a methodology to continuously predict the risk of deforestation and forest fires at a local scale, which provides information to decision makers and the general public before deforestation occurs.

- MINAM finalized its first forest change map and is completing the first phase of its national forest inventory.

- Intensive carbon monitoring sites were installed to increase understanding of forest-climate dynamics, build capacities for new carbon monitoring techniques, and provide research opportunities for scientists and students.

PROJECT INFORMATION

IMPLEMENTER: U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Geological Service and other U.S.G. Agencies
COMPONENT DURATION: April 2017 to August 2021
USAID FUNDING: $2,160,000
LOCATION IN PERU: Peru, Loreto region
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