



Laguna Seca Forest Carbon Project

Belize, Central America

Project Summary



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This project started in 2009 to protect 133,000 acres (53,846 ha) of tropical forests in Belize, Central America. Near the center of the property, 3,000 acres (1214 ha) has been managed as a cattle and coffee farm plus an ecotourism lodge (Chan Chich Lodge¹). The property was selectively logged multiple times through the 1960's when it was purchased (fee simple) in the 1980's by Sir Barry Bowen, a well-known businessman and former Belizean Senator. Due to the untimely death of the owner and the global economic recession, 8,432 ha of the property were slated for development and conversion to sugar cane for a new ethanol/electricity facility in northern Belize and other agricultural products. Selective logging was recently started again to help maintain cash flow.



Figure 1: Typical humid broadleaf forest with cohune palms.

In 2012, the property was subdivided, and a large portion (105,198 acres or over 42k ha) sold to The Forestland Group LLC including the area identified for the sugarcane project. The new owners have agreed to maintain and continue the forest carbon project. The new property was renamed The Laguna Seca Tract.

Biodiversity at Laguna Seca is well documented and world-renowned. The densest population of large cats in Central America has been documented on the property primarily due to superb habitat and a rigorous prohibition on hunting. In addition to large cats there are notable

populations of Ocellated Turkeys, White Tail Deer, White Lipped Peccary, and Great Curassow. The property is contiguous with two other protected areas, the Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area, and the Maya Biosphere Reserve in Guatemala. The current owners will support Sylvester Village and the Gallon Jug School through direct contributions to the Gallon Jug Community School Scholarship Fund.

Purchasers of verified historical vintages and upfront payments for future verified credits are sought through project developer Forest Carbon Offsets LLC. Total carbon dioxide emission reductions are expected to exceed 4.4 million tons over a 30-year period. This amount is calculated by estimating the amount of CO₂ removals that can be prevented by protecting this property from conversion to agriculture.

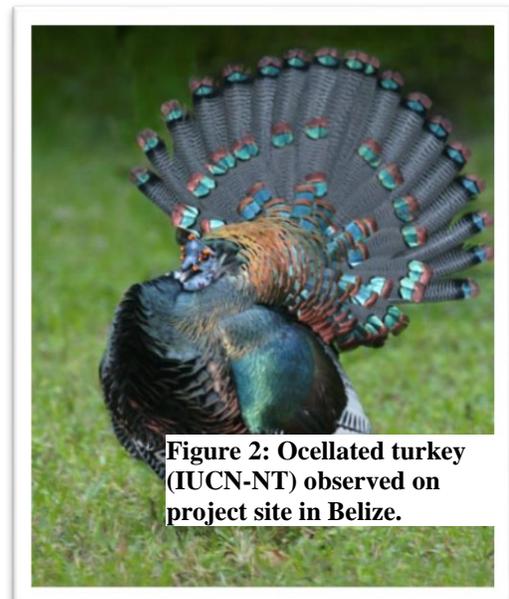


Figure 2: Ocellated turkey (IUCN-NT) observed on project site in Belize.

¹ See web site at: <http://www.chanchich.com/home.html>



Figure 3: Geoffroy's Spider Monkey (IUCN-EN)

Project Benefits

- Protects a large block of tropical forest that is part of a regional landscape of protected lands in Central America.
- Supports livelihoods and communities in the area.
- Protects biodiversity from illegal hunting including multiple HCV species (tapir IUCN-EN, Geoffrey's spider monkey IUCN-EN, ocelot IUCN-VU, jaguar IUCN-NT, ocellated turkey IUCN-NT)
- Mitigates climate change. Demonstrates the usefulness of international forestry offset trading for biodiversity protection and improved livelihoods.

Project Status

- Project validation completed and approved.
- Verification of initial 488,097 mtCO₂e approved. Issuance of first tranche, 100,000 credits, completed in May of 2016.
- Patrols and livelihoods support underway.

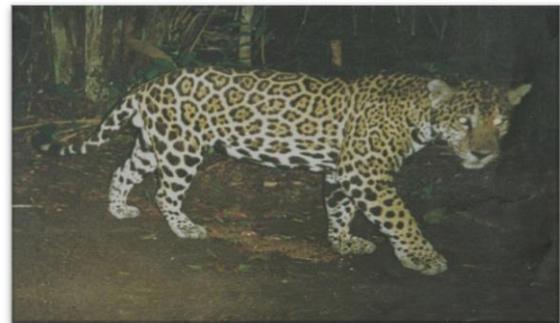


Figure 4: Jaguar (IUCN-NT) observed on project site.

Size	8,432 ha in project.
Carbon	4.4 million VERs over thirty-year period
Carbon Accounting	Verified Carbon Standard
Project Type	Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation +
Methodology	Climate, Community, and Biodiversity Alliance Standard Version 2 and Voluntary Carbon Standard Methodology VM0007 REDD Methodology Modules (REDD-MF): Avoided Planned Deforestation
Registry	APX
Verifier	Environmental Services Incorporated (ESI)
Legal	Fee simple absolute with protective covenant for project period
Preferred Payment Structure	Payment at first verification for historical vintages. Upfront payment for future vintages.
Risks	VER demand, project performance
Timeline	30-year tenure 2011-2041
Unique	Visible, locally and regionally important project with substantial biodiversity values including jaguars, ocelot, tapirs, etc.

Please Contact

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