

Note about the Santa Maria Forest REDD project

The Santa Maria Forest REDD Project is located in the city of Colniza, Mato Grosso, within a forest area of approximately 71 thousand hectares. The project began in April 2009 as of its registration under the Verra Verified Carbon Standard (VCS).

Between 2009 and 2019 the project sought a social certification, aiming to bring benefits to the communities surrounding the project, Social Carbon certification. However, in its previous management, the Project was without certifying and issuing carbon assets from 2012 to 2021, since the liquidity and prices practiced by the carbon market did not enable the financial viability necessary to carry out the certification process. The lack of certification and sale of carbon assets during this period did not allow the realization of some planned project activities.

Today the project is in a moment of renewal, both in the management aspect and in the design of the carbon project, fundamental requisites for the new administrative and social management.

In 2019, the Caraguá company acquired the Santa Maria Forestry farm and along with it the carbon project, thus becoming the new proponent of the project. The Caraguá company, upon taking over the project, hired Systemica to start the renewal of the FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certification. Today, the farm already has the FSC certification renewed¹, and during the process of certification renewal, the management training courses were open to people who had no direct link with the farm.

At the same time, the new management of the Santa Maria Project began a series of important studies for the adequate implementation of the project activities, including the social diagnosis of the communities and settlements surrounding the project, which aimed to understand where social investments could generate the greatest possible return for the well-being of the communities.

At this moment, the new version of the carbon project is in the validation phase in both the VCS and CCB (Climate, Community and Biodiversity) standards. Before being submitted, the social project will be discussed again with the community leaders and other project participants in order to receive new suggestions and criticisms about the social activities that are being thought of at the moment based on the social diagnosis made.

Caraguá and the new company hired to develop the project (Systemica), hope that with these efforts the project can be renewed, maintaining the enormous conservation benefits and avoiding deforestation and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as bringing the relevant social benefits to the project region.

¹ <https://fsc.org/en/fsc-public-certificate-search>