



Rainforest Alliance

VERIFICATION STATEMENT FOR CENTRO DE CONSERVACIÓN, INVESTIGACIÓN Y MANEJO DE AREAS NATURALES - CORDILLERA AZUL

Calle José Gabriel Chariarse 420,
San Antonio, Miraflores. Lima 18, Perú

Verification Scope:

Rainforest Alliance has verified that the Cordillera Azul National Park REDD Project is in conformance with the *Climate Community and Biodiversity Standard, Second Edition December 2008*. The project is located in San Martín, Ucayali, Huánuco, and Loreto, Perú. This independent third-party verification covers a REDD project of 1,351,963.85 hectares of Government owned land. The objective of this verification audit is to verify the implementation of the validated GHG project. The information supporting the GHG assertion is historic in nature.

The Rainforest Alliance verified with a reasonable level of assurance that the Cordillera Azul National Park REDD Project has created overall net positive Climate, Community, and Biodiversity benefits during the monitoring period from 8 August 2008 to 7 August 2012.

The Project has demonstrated a net positive climate benefit of 6,413,412 metric tons CO₂e of avoided GHG emissions through verification against the Verified Carbon Standard version 3 during the monitoring period. If deductions for the VCS AFOLU pooled buffer account (641,341 CO₂e) are also included, the net reductions are 5,772,071 metric tons CO₂e. The verification of climate benefits was determined by SCS Global Services on 01 February 2013 therefore the proponent has demonstrated a net positive climate benefit.

The Project has demonstrated net positive community benefits through efforts to build local capacity for sustainable land use and an improved quality of life for buffer zone communities. The Project's biodiversity monitoring data showed that the project has had a net positive impact on biodiversity.

The Project meets also meets requirements for Exceptional Biodiversity Benefits. The project's activities that resulted in net positive impacts on biodiversity have also protected the endemic and endangered species in the Project Area which include over 39 species new to science.

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Version July 2013



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Verification Registration Code: RA-VER-CCB-019033

Effective Date: 21 March 2014

The validity of this statement is contingent upon the project's continued implementation of the *Climate Community and Biodiversity Standard, Second Edition December 2008* and as further defined in the Rainforest Alliance Verification Audit Report dated 21 March 2014.



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Summary of the climate, community and biodiversity benefits the project is expected to deliver from the Project Design Documentation:

Cordillera Azul National Park (PNCAZ) REDD Project protects a large, intact expanse of lower-montane forest remaining in Peru. PNCAZ is the easternmost outlier of the Andes at this latitude and covers portions of seven provinces in four departments in Peru: San Martín, Ucayali, Huánuco, and Loreto. The project area is 1,351,963.85 hectares within the boundaries of PNCAZ owned by the government of Peru, by order of its designation as a national park. The park's buffer zone was officially recognized by the Peruvian government in a Supreme Decree establishing the park. In 2007 the buffer zone was expanded by legislation, resulting in an area of 2,301,117.24 hectares.

Each mountain range in the park is a separate, uplifted block of mostly Jurassic and Cretaceous strata, which predominate in the northeastern Peruvian Andes south of the Marañón River. Most of these tilted blocks are oriented north and south, but some curve to run east and west. A distinctive geological feature, the Vivian formation consists of rows of flat, sloping triangles of rock up to 7 km broad at the base and 4 km along the ridge resembling giant zigzags. They are well developed and almost perfectly symmetrical in two areas of the park.

The possibility of non-contacted indigenous people from the Cacataibo group living in the southeast region of the park led to the establishment of a "strict protection zone" (Zona de Protección Estricta in Spanish) in the region that permits zero outside entry. Until these people come out of their own volition and request contact, the region remains closed to all entry or use.

There are no organized human communities within the project area. The one known dweller inside the park – a cattle rancher – does not have legal land tenure but has an agreement with SERNANP and CIMA allowing him to remain on his land. He violated this agreement shortly before the project began. The ranch is discussed further in Section 1.10.4.

The total population in the districts around and including the park in 2008 was 321,000. This population has access to the park for

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subsistence hunting and fishing. The population in the actual buffer zone is estimated at 180,000, with the remaining population residing beyond the buffer zone. Most of the park-neighboring communities are on the west, along the Huallaga valley. Most Huallaga residents are *mestizo*. The only officially recognized indigenous population on the Huallaga side (with land titles as a “native community”) is a small Quechua-Lamista community in the district of Chazuta. The Ucayali region on the park’s eastern side differs dramatically from the west. The population is sparse and predominantly indigenous—principally Shipibo, with some Piro/Yine and Kakataibo groups—each group conserving its cultural identity and mother language.

The project area includes intact forests from the lowlands (at 300 meters) to mountain peaks (at 2,400 meters) and protects an eastern outlier of the Andes that has been isolated sufficiently long for massive speciation to occur. Scientists who conducted the Rapid Biological Inventory led by The Field Museum in 2000 estimated a total of 4000 – 6000 plant species in the park, with at least 12 probably new to science. (Alverson *et al.* 2001) In their three weeks in the field, the scientists observed 71 large mammal species including bush dogs, spectacled bears, 10 species of primates, and enormous herds of white-lipped peccaries. Bird diversity is extremely high, with more than 590 species already registered for the park and actual species richness probably exceeding 800 species. During the inventory, 58 species of amphibians and 26 of reptiles were registered, but these numbers are low because the inventory was conducted during the dry season when few species are calling and active. Inventories to date have confirmed 150 species of fish with total richness expected to be greater than 250 species.

The project area consists of 1,351,963.85 hectares within the park that belongs to the national government of Peru. Upon its formation in 2002, Centro de Conservación, Investigación, y Manejo de Áreas Naturales– Cordillera Azul (CIMA) voluntarily signed an agreement with the Peruvian government to support the management of the park. The agreement was renewed for one-to-two year terms until August 8, 2008 when CIMA and the Peruvian government signed a 20-year, full management contract. The 2008 management contract includes legal authorization for CIMA to use revenues from the sale of carbon credits from avoided deforestation for park activities for the 20-year term. CIMA is the only NGO with a contract with the Peruvian

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government for full management of the entire national park and buffer zone. CIMA and PNCAZ receive no or extremely limited funds from the government of Peru per the terms of the management contract, which further differentiates PNCAZ from other Peruvian national parks.

As a result of a funding crisis in 2007, CIMA and its technical advisor, The Field Museum, sought a more sustainable source of funding than the foundation and USAID funding that they had been receiving to date for park protection and land-use management activities. The two organizations decided to pursue a REDD project for PNCAZ because no alternative, sustainable financing was available and CIMA would have to cease all protection and management activities in the park and buffer zone. Two protocols were identified to develop and monitor the project: Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) and the Community, Climate and Biodiversity (CCB) protocol. Under VCS, the project is using VM0007 REDD Methodology Modules (REDD-MF) for unplanned frontier deforestation for carbon stock and avoided emissions assessment. The signing of the 20-year management contract in 2008 served as the start of the carbon project.

The project's primary objective is to prevent deforestation in PNCAZ by focusing on three main types of project activities:

- Protecting the park.
- Building local capacity for sustainable land use and improving the quality of life in the buffer zone communities.
- Strengthening relationships with local, regional and national government agencies.

All project activities support these goals.

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