

Weyerhaeuser, VCS

Forest plantations on highly degraded grasslands, Uruguay

The project, based in Eastern Uruguay, comprises various forest areas that were previously used to graze herds of cattle. Grazing large herds of cattle is a form of land use that leads to severe soil erosion and degradation.

The areas were so heavily used that they can hardly regenerate naturally, so the main task of the project is to replant the area with native trees. Plant growth, with the help of environmentally friendly herbicides, regular pruning and thinning. Mainly native species like eucalyptus and pine are afforested. Since the plantation is afforestation, the trees that have been removed are used for the sustainable production of pulp and sawdust.

In addition, a continuous forest inventory is created to monitor forest development:
Growth, forest health, fire risk and other common forest practices.

The project with an area of 18,191 hectares generates 56,000 tons of carbon credits per year. In the region, afforestation promotes sustainable wood production and contributes to sustainable rural development.

Uruguay is a small country with a total area of only 18 million hectares and little industrialization. Animal breeding is a longstanding tradition. Uruguay's economy is still primarily based on the use of natural resources. 86.6% of the country's land is used for agriculture, animal husbandry and timber production. After a deep recession at the turn of the millennium, Uruguay's GDP grew by an average of 5.7 percent per year compared to the previous year, especially due to the flourishing timber industry. The sector created around 25,000 jobs in 1,750 companies.

About 8.6% of Uruguay is forested. According to the World Conservation Monitoring Center, Uruguay has 659 known species of amphibians, birds, mammals and reptiles, 2.3% of which are endemic and 5.6% threatened. To achieve its climate goals and preserve its valuable habitats, Uruguay must take measures to preserve the country's forests. It has to keep the balance between the demand of the industry for wood and the climate and environmental protection. Projects like this can help Uruguay successfully master this challenge.

Projecttype:	Afforestation
Projectnumber:	280
Certifier:	TÜV Nord
Standard:	

This project meets following of the UN Global Goals 2030

