

Carbonfund.org Reforestation Project Takes Major Step in Reducing Global Warming Emissions : TreeHugger



Photo via: Brion V.

Carbonfund.org's Tensas National Wildlife Refuge Reforestation Project has just become the first reforestation carbon offset project in North America to achieve dual validation by the Rainforest Alliance to the Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS) as well as the Climate, Community & Biodiversity (CCB) Standards with Gold Distinction.

Tensas National Wildlife Refuge Reforestation Project

For over 50 years, the land around Northeastern Louisiana (in particular the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley) has been covered with deforestation fragments. The fragments were caused by the decades of land conversions aimed specifically for the agricultural purpose of growing corn, sugarcane, and cotton in the area.

The Tensas Project has been designed to isolate up to 600,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions from the atmosphere over its lifetime through the replenishing of these forests. It has been estimated that the Louisiana forests have been allowed to dwindle down to 20 percent of the coverage they once had. The 1,870 acres of reforestation will include replenishing the native bottomland hardwood, as well as the wetland habitats.

Some of the wildlife that the refuge is helping to support includes as estimated 400 different species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish. Among these species are the endangered Florida Panther and the Louisiana Black Bear.

Significance of Dual Validation

What is so significant about the dual validation, is the industry has now been granted the assurance that the Tensas Project will continue to meet all high quality environmental and social standards. The VCS validation ensures that the project has been designed to deliver the full, measurable, and permanent carbon offsets it was designed to. The CCB validation mitigates the projects risk and verifies that the project will generate both credible and robust offsets, while supporting the local community preserving the biodiversity.

Eric Carlson, Carbonfund.org President:

Carbonfund.org's first-ever CCB Gold and VCS dual validation project is a major milestone for the carbon offset industry, making Tensas among the highest quality, scientifically validated carbon reduction projects in the world. Deforestation is responsible for about 25% of global warming, meaning reforestation and forest preservation are critical solutions to solving global warming. By providing the highest quality offsets through projects such as Tensas, Carbonfund.org is enabling individuals, businesses and organizations to take responsibility for their carbon footprint, and reduce and offset their climate impact.

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