



Natural
Climate
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Alliance

Natural Climate Solutions in Action

Vida Manglar

Project/Program Type	Vida Manglar is the world's first project to account for the "blue carbon" that mangroves store both above and below water. Its credits are certified by Verra, which manages the world's leading voluntary carbon markets program.
Description	Vida Manglar works with local communities to protect 11,000 hectares (27,000 acres) of mangrove forest along Colombia's Caribbean coast.
Location	Cispatá Bay on Colombia's Caribbean coast.
Scale	11,000 hectares
Number of Credits Issued to Date	67,000 credits. Each credit represents the reduction or removal of 1 metric ton of carbon dioxide equivalent.
Project Proponent	Conservation International, Colombia's Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the Omacha Foundation, Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras (INVEMAR), Corporación Autónoma Regional de los Valles del Sinú y del San Jorge (CVS) and Corporación Autónoma Regional de Sucre (CARSUCRE).



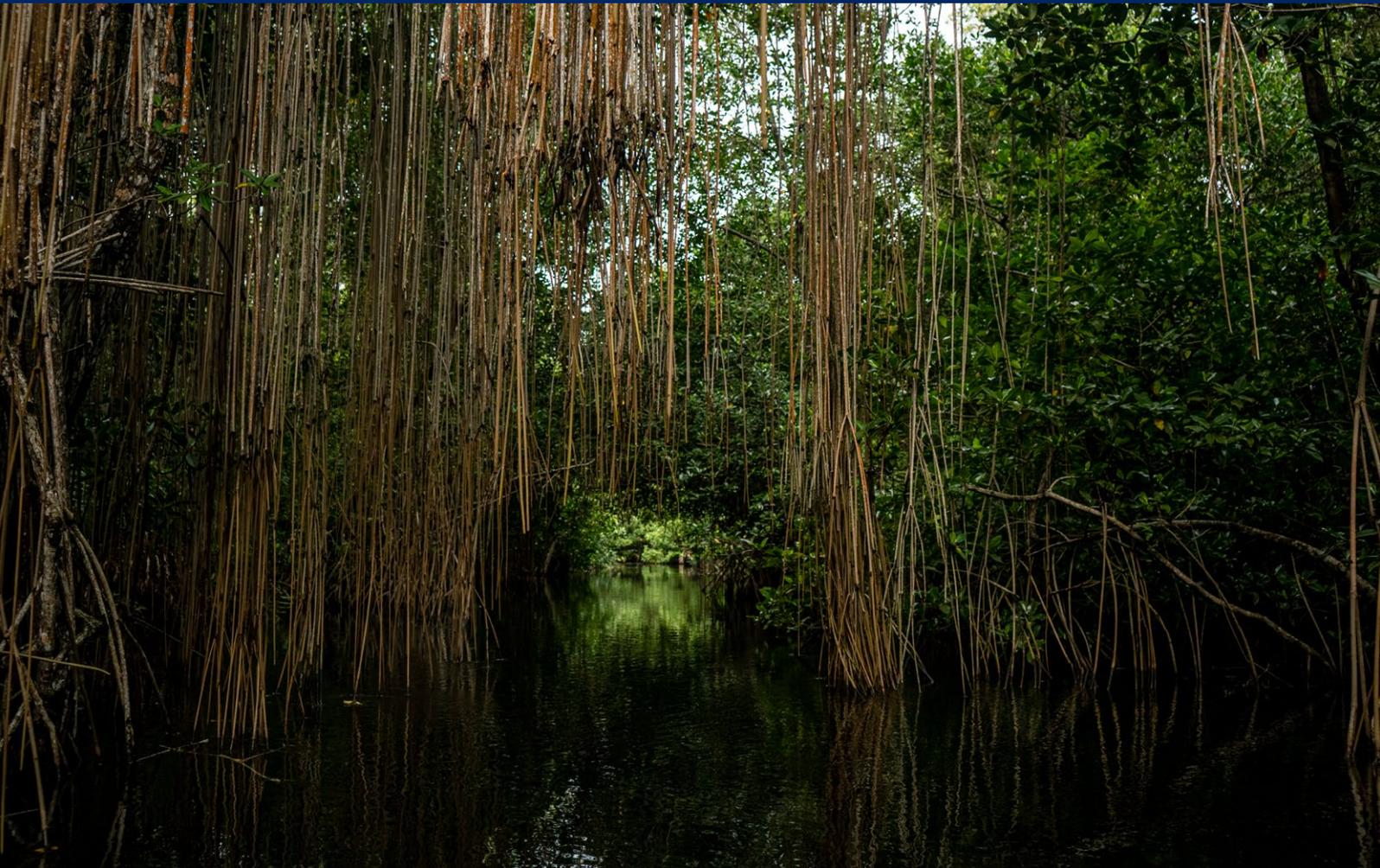
Impacts

Impact To-Date

The project supports the livelihoods of 12,000 people who live in local communities. Mangrove workers from 14 associations are using revenues from the sale of blue carbon credits to clean waterways, collect soil samples and monitor biodiversity in Cispatá Bay.

Projected Longer-Term Impact

Over 30 years, the project is expected to sequester 1 million metric tons of carbon dioxide – roughly equivalent to taking 184,000 cars off the road for one year. It will also create new, sustainable sources of income for local communities through activities like forest management, beekeeping and ecotourism.



A Landmark Carbon Project is Supporting the Protection and Restoration of Colombia's Mangroves

Mangroves provide a powerful defense against the impacts of a warming planet. They suck up carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in their trunks, branches – and, importantly, in the soils held between their roots. In a single square mile, mangroves can stash away as much climate-warming carbon as the annual emissions of 90,000 cars.

In coastal communities, mangroves create natural buffers to sea-level rise, blunting storm surges and floods. And they nurture a wide array of fish that are both locally important and commercially viable, creating a critical source of food and income.

Despite these benefits, human activities have destroyed mangroves at alarming rates. Farming, aquaculture, wood harvesting and urban development have led to the loss of at least 30 percent of mangrove forests around the world in the past 50 years. And because mangroves are so efficient at storing carbon, their destruction can become a major source of emissions. Mangroves generate as much as 10 percent of all global carbon emissions from deforestation, despite accounting for only 0.7 percent of tropical forest area.

In Colombia, hotel development and cattle ranching have drained mangrove forests, destroying the habitats of otters, dolphins, manatees and crocodiles – and hurting local communities that rely on this ecosystem for income and livelihoods. Though the government declared the Cispata' Bay, on the Caribbean coast, a marine protected area in 2006, mangroves there continued to be cleared for cattle and agriculture, and the area lacked the financial resources needed to enforce its protection.

In 2015, Conservation International joined the Cispata' community, the Omacha Foundation and Colombia's national and regional environmental authorities to flip the economic script that so far has rendered mangroves more valuable dead than alive. They launched Vida Manglar (Spanish for "mangrove life"), the first project to fully measure – and monetize – the carbon that mangroves sequester, using methodology developed with the non-profit organization Verra, a global leader in creating standards for channeling carbon finance toward conservation.

Vida Manglar is supporting the protection of 11,000 hectares (27,000 acres) of mangroves in Cispata' Bay. So far, it has sold 100 percent of its verified carbon credits, generating revenues that are invested in the area's conservation management plan to protect the mangroves and support the livelihoods of 12,000 people who live in or near the project site.

Vida Manglar's long-term success relies on support from local communities, which are part of the project's governance structure and actively participate in monitoring, data collection and species conservation.



Ignacia de la Rosa,
Leadership of the
Mangrove Community
of San Antero

The mangrove forest gives us so much. It shelters us from the winds, and provides food and resources.

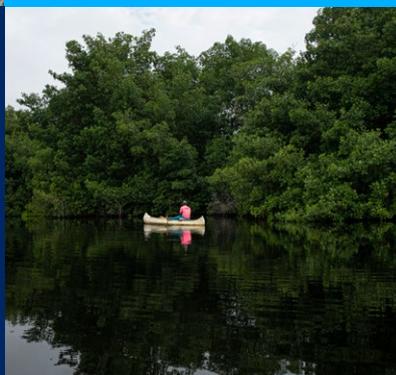


Project area
11,000
hectares



3 focal species:
Caribbean manatee, otter, needle nose crocodile

242
hectares
restored



Partnering with
17
grassroots organizations

Follow the progress





"The mangrove forest gives us so much. It shelters us from the winds, and provides food and resources," said Ignacia de la Rosa Pérez, a leader of the San Antero community in the Cispatá Bay. "For us, it's like a protective mother. Our goal is to conserve it for the future."

The project's carbon revenues fund the implementation of a conservation management plan. In exchange for making specific commitments that limit the amount of wood they harvest from the mangrove forest, 14 *manglero* associations receive benefits, such as wages for cleaning waterways, collecting soil samples and monitoring biodiversity. The Vida Manglar project has built 15 nurseries to grow mangrove trees for reforestation. So far, the project has restored 254 hectares of forest – in addition to the 11,000 hectares it protects.



David Olarte,
Project Coordinator,
Conservation
International

The main goal of Vida Manglar is to create a sustainable source of income for the community that will support the mangroves' continued conservation and restoration.

"The main goal of Vida Manglar is to create a sustainable source of income for the community that will support the mangroves' continued conservation and restoration," Olarte said. "Without this revenue, we wouldn't be able to



Ignacia de la Rosa,
Leadership of
the Mangrove
Community of San
Antero

One of the next steps is to work really hard on environmental education for families and people visiting this region.

fund the work to protect this ecosystem, which has so many local and global benefits."

Through Vida Manglar, some community members are also receiving seeds and technical support to create vegetable gardens and sell produce at local markets. Others are receiving financial support to produce honey from stingless bees that pollinate mangrove flowers. The project also provides financial support for the regional environmental authority's effort to breed crocodiles and manatees and release them into the mangrove. This supports ecotourism in Cispatá Bay, which is an important waypoint for countless migratory birds.

For de la Rosa, Vida Manglar has been an opportunity to deepen her lifelong passion for the mangrove ecosystem—and share it with other members of her community.

"One of the next steps is to work really hard on environmental education for families and people visiting this region," she says. Already, she sees a new generation of *mangleros*, Spanish for people of the mangroves, who are attending university to study forestry with the aim of returning to work in the mangrove. "They love the mangrove," de la Rosa says, "and can continue this legacy."



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About the NCS Alliance

The NCS Alliance (NCSA) conveys the voice of businesses, NGOs and solution providers on the need to mobilize a high integrity demand for high quality Natural Climate Solutions (NCS). The Alliance focuses on identifying opportunities and barriers to investment in the NCS voluntary carbon market and serves as a forum for knowledge sharing and technical capacity building to ensure natural climate solutions reach their full potential in abating climate change, while also tackling nature loss and socio-economic issues. NCS in Action was established to showcase how NCS are making a real difference in the world today.

For more information visit www.naturalclimatesolutionsalliance.org and follow us on [LinkedIn](#).



Statement of Acknowledgment

The NCS in Action are testimonials designed to highlight the benefits for people and nature associated with NCS projects and programs financed through the voluntary carbon market. The NCS Alliance strongly believes that the voluntary carbon market is necessary for financing NCS projects and programs. It is critical however that it rests on the integrity of the climate benefits, i.e. the ability of credits to truly represent real and verifiable carbon reductions.

The NCS Alliance recognizes the importance of staying up-to-date with the latest science and best practices as carbon-crediting programs evolve. We acknowledge that there have been challenges with certain methodologies and that improvements have not always been made as quickly as necessary. However, we believe that this is a valuable learning-by-doing process and that scaling up NCS is crucial in achieving global 1.5C goals. In support of this, the NCS Alliance will continue to highlight projects and programs in this space while also advocating for consistent improvement in standards and methodologies. For more information about how and when these methodologies are updated see [Verra](#), [Plan Vivo](#), [ACR](#), [ART](#).

NCS in Action is made possible with generous funding support from the We Mean Business Coalition.

Disclaimer

Inclusion of an NCS project or program in the NCS in Action program does not imply a recommendation to purchase, trade or retire credits associated with the project or program.

The NCS Alliance and its members take no responsibility for the purchase, trade or retirement of credits from these projects and programs. Instead, it recommends that individuals, companies and other organisations procuring credits as part of their climate strategies conduct their own independent due diligence to validate the quality and environmental integrity of their purchases.

The NCS Alliance secretariat in no way benefits financially or by other means from the selection.

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