**REDD+ Project in Brazil Nut Concessions in Madre de Dios Peru**

**Emissions avoidance - Forestry and Land Use**

20,000 tCO₂e available

**What it does**

The Madre de Dios province in the East of Peru is a biodiversity hotspot with yet undiscovered flora and fauna, as well as indigenous groups that have yet to contact the outside world.

The inaccessibility of the region provided a safe haven for invaluable endemic species; however, the completion of the Transoceánica Highway (Rio De Janeiro, Brazil to Lima, Peru) has increased the access to this previously unexploited area.

This rainforest community project brings local small-scale concession holders who harvest Brazil nuts together, empowering the concessioners to protect the forest from illegal deforestation adjacent to the new transport route.

**How it works:**

avoiding carbon emissions related to unplanned deforestation; by conserving trees that would otherwise be harvested and illegally logged, not only is carbon stored in standing trees, but the community members are able to manage the Brazil nut concessions to sustain their livelihoods.

The protected area is a main water collector of the drainage systems within the region. The preservation of the natural cycles is important for the preservation of local water resources. Forest protection improves local soil and water quality by avoiding soil degradation and reducing erosion.

The project creates new income opportunities for the people living in the project area. Sustainable forest management and the protection and surveillance of the project area are reliable sources of income for local communities.

The project enables small local farmers to sustainably cultivate, harvest and process Brazil nuts. Additionally, concessioners get easy access to international markets where the final products can be sold.

The project reduces the levels of greenhouse gas emissions by a method of avoided deforestation. Business as usual would see large areas of forest illegally logged; carbon financing provides community members with means to secure the area from illegal deforestation.

The natural rainforests in the Amazon region are an extremely bio-diverse habitat and home to many endangered species. An estimated 10% of the species in the area remain unknown.