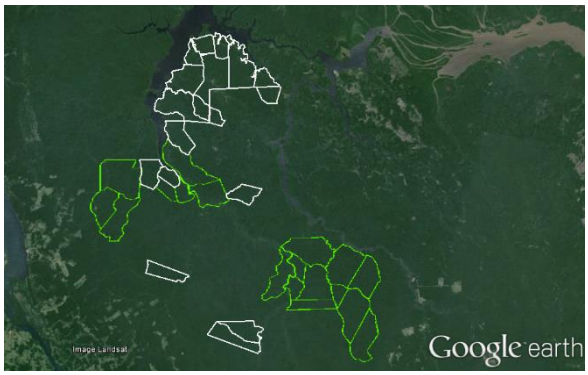
RMDLT Portel- Pará REDD Project

Distinctive features

The RMDLT Portel-Para REDD Project shares great similarity with the ADPML project as they are located close to each other in the northwest of Brazil, in the State of Para, micro region of Portel, municipality of Portel, and they have been designed by the same project developer – Ecosystem Services LLC. RMDLT Property Group Ltd. is an international business corporation formed in 2010 in the country of Belize, Central America. The purpose of RMDLT Property Group is to form a funding and operations company to engage in the development of international lands, either privately or governmental held for the monetisation of carbon credits under REDD using various industry accepted standards. The other project proponent is the ALLCOT Group, a carbon asset management company that develops, manages and trades in all sectors related with climate mitigation.



RMDLT shown in green; ADPML in white

The project's main objective is to avoid and prevent unplanned deforestation in native forests thus avoiding the emission of 44,662,429 tCO2e. This objective will be achieved by managing the land in the form of a "private conservation reserve" by developing and implementing a management plan.

Cattle ranchers are the main deforestation agent in the area. Cattle ranchers can expand their activities by their own means (in the case of well-capitalised agents) or as part of a process that includes pioneer agents such as selective loggers and squatters (in the case of small and medium size ranchers). For most of the agents the main driver of deforestation in the area is land speculation, followed by generation of economic revenue. Land speculation is generated by widespread unclear land tenure, regulations that do not provide security for landowners and from known corruption and weak enforcement in local-level institutions.

Key activities in the proposed project plan are monitoring of the project boundaries and activities to support local communities, both those living within and outside of the Project boundaries. The project boundaries will be divided into brigades to facilitate monitoring. Brigades will be constituted by a technician specialised in forestry topics who will function as a manager and a

group of villagers as a patrol. Brigades will conduct regular visits around the perimeter of the project area to meet people and invite participation in leakage preventive measure activities. Brigades will identify and report any illegal activities (invasions and timber extraction).

The project will also offer land tenure rights for conservation results to villagers living within the project's boundaries but outside the accounting area. The landowner has signed an agreement to provide official land-use rights to villagers with the hope that they will own these lands in 40 years. As a requirement to receive a land title, each villager will have to sign a conservation agreement that will mainly state that granted lands cannot be sold, productive activities cannot expand into the project area and that the land use cannot change to mining or pasture.

To those living outside the project boundary in neighbouring villages, the project will provide knowledge to legally claim and secure land titles on unused public land. Additionally, the project will provide support to enhance community organisational capabilities for better management of local resources. The Project will also provide capacity building on agroforestry systems with native species and on implementation of energy efficient cook stoves for cassava production to villagers within and near the project boundary. Capacity building activities will be offered to ranchers (the main deforestation agents) to show them the benefits of pasture management and intensified cattle ranching.

	Heading	Explanation
Locational factors		
	**Location**	Three locations in the Portel micro region, in Para region, northern Brazil
	Spatial boundaries	Project area: 177,899.5 ha Reference area: 2,396,206 ha Leakage monitoring area: Leakage management area:
	Land cover	Ombrophilous Forest, Flooded Forest, Natural Savannas.
	Agents and drivers of forest cover change	A Agents: i. Selective loggers and squatters ii. Cattle ranchers Underlying drivers: i. Unclear tenure and weak enforcement ii. Ranching is a cheap and effective way of preventing regrowth of forest Proximate causes: i. Land clearance for sale (cleared land is worth 5 to 10 times that of forested area) ii. Ranching

Basic project features		
	**Objectives**	*Climate Objectives:* ▪Avoid and prevent unplanned deforestation in native forests *Community Objectives:* ▪Land tenure security to villagers in the project boundary, capacity building workshop for those outside ▪Confirmation of private land ownership ▪Improvement of community resource management ▪Capacity building on agroforestry systems and on implementation of energy efficient cook stoves
	Proponent/s	▪RMDLT: A funding and operations company engaged in the development of international lands for the monetisation of carbon credits under REDD ▪ALLCOT Group AG: A vertically integrated carbon asset management company that develops, manages and trades in all sectors related with climate mitigation
	Actors involved in project design and implementation and their roles	Ecosystem Services LLC - Project Developer, implementing and managing entity
	Tenure and Carbon rights holder/s	Tenure: Project area privately owned by the proponent Carbon rights: proponent
	Upfront financing	Funding for Project's activities is secured by funds committed by the Project Proponent until the end of 2013.
	Start date	1 January 2008
	Crediting period	40 years, 1 January 2008 – 31 December 2037
Baseline emissions		
	**Methodology**	VCS VM0015 REDD Methodology: Methodology for Unplanned Deforestation V2.0
	Reference data (unplanned deforestation/degradation)	Reference period: 1996-2008 Types of data used: Landsat 5 TM images for three time points in time in 1996, 2004 and 2008; 7 Alos Palsar scenes 2011; SPOT 5 and RapidEye 2011 from Google Earth
	Reference data (planned deforestation/degradation)	Not applicable
	Stratification of project area	Only one forest type and strata - Ombrophilous Forest
	Deforestation rate and location	**Historical**

	1.7% **Projected** 1.7% **Likely baseline scenario** Deforestation continues on both the pioneer frontier (the remoter areas near the river) and consolidated frontier (areas near the Transamazonica federal highway) **Modelling procedure** ▪ The Project calculated the historical deforestation rate of 1.7% and used this as the historical average to predict future deforestation rates. The projected future location of deforestation was mapped using IDRISI Selva, a peer reviewed software to estimate land-cover change. ▪Factors for the modelling include distance from roads, navigable rivers and to non-forest.
Carbon pools	**Carbon pools included** ▪Aboveground tree biomass ✓ ▪Belowground tree biomass ✓ ▪Non-tree woody biomass ✗ ▪Litter ✓ ▪Dead wood ✗ ▪Soil ✗ ▪Wood products ✗ **Estimation method** ▪Carbon content per 1 ha of forest in the reference region for deforestation, Project Area and Leakage Belt was calculated using a weighted average based on the results from the forest carbon inventory. ▪Above-ground biomass for a DBH ≥ 10cm was calculated using Overman's equation (Overman, Witte et al. 1994) corrected for biomass moisture content (Araujo, Higuchi et al. 1999). ▪For carbon stock in grassland, IPCC's Good Practice Guidance for Land Use was used.
Carbon stock changes	Grassland assumed to be the only post-deforestation land use implemented in the reference region for deforestation because it can be developed anywhere in the region, it is the land-use with most historical participation in deforestation, and the one with the highest average carbon stock per hectare.
GHG emissions	Non-CO_2 emissions from fires are accounted because fire is the main technology used to clear the forest
Net emissions without project	Net emissions per ha from land use / land cover change in the Project Area is 794.91 tCO_2e/ha

Project GHG emissions reduction strategy

	**Scope**	Avoid unplanned deforestation
	Activities	▪Providing training on forest and biodiversity monitoring and management and opportunities to work as a monitoring/enforcement staff ▪Training for monitoring staff ▪Enhancing community's organisational capabilities ▪Provide legal land-ownership rights versus results for conservation ▪Providing capacity building on steps to gain land use rights over Government-owned forests ▪Providing capacity building in agroforestry techniques and implement agroforestry pilots ▪Providing capacity building on improved efficiency cook stoves and implement cook stove pilots ▪Providing capacity building to develop small sustainable business ▪Providing capacity building to cattle ranchers that move inside the Project Boundary
	Leakage mitigation strategy	Project will not generate displacement leakage as the Project's activities are designed to provide all the deforestation agents that arrive to the Project's Boundary with the opportunity to participate.
	Non-permanence risk mitigation strategy	▪Communities' lack of effectiveness to control the Conservation Forest area: Renewable land use rights will be provided against results for conservation to those families living within the Project Boundary. Families will be trained to monitor the area and to protect the forest. ▪Population growth forces agricultural expansion in project area: Although population is growing in the area, small-scale agriculture is not a significant driver of deforestation in the area. Capacity building on agroforestry techniques will be implemented. ▪Loss of carbon stocks through fire, illegal felling, and land clearing: Leakage, illegal logging and fire avoided by building strong partnerships with villagers to assist in prevention activities.
	Additionality	▪Alternative land use scenarios: 3 possible scenarios identified. ▪Investment analysis: Simple cost analysis applied. Concluded that a lot of capital needed to set up project ▪Barrier analysis: Considered not applicable ▪Common practice analysis: 3 REDD Projects in the State of Para identified but none have independent validation
With-project emissions		
	**Effectiveness of**	Project assumed to prevent 95% of the deforestation in

measures	the project area.
Carbon stock changes	The Project does not include planned deforestation, logging or fuel wood collection and charcoal production activities The Project assumes an Effectiveness Index (EI) 0.95
GHG emissions	The Project activities will not generate non-CO_2 emissions because the Project's activities will not require fuel combustion, biomass burning or the use of synthetic fertilizers.
Leakage	**Types** Activity shifting: The Project will not generate displacement leakage as the Project's activities are designed to provide all the deforestation agents that arrive to the Project's Boundary with the opportunity to participate. **Deduction** None
Non-permanence risk	**Buffer** 15.3%
Ex-ante estimated net greenhouse gas emissions reductions	**Total over crediting period:** 44,662,429 tCO_2e **Annual average:** 1,116,561 tCO_2e **Annual average per ha:** 6.3 tCO_2e
Monitoring of carbon stock changes and emissions	**Data and parameters** *For carbon stock change* ▪ i. Forest, non- cover in reference region for deforestation, leakage belt and project area *For baseline revaluation, variables to be used* ▪ ii. Socio-economic information retrieved from the Project's monitoring activities ▪ iii. Distance to new roads ▪ iv. Average distance to selective logging activities from pioneer roads ▪ v. Distance to non-forest ▪ vi. Planned infrastructure in the region **Methods** ▪ i. – vi. LANDSAT 8 or radar imagery Other methods: Forest monitoring patrols **Frequency** ▪ i. – vi. Start of each baseline period ▪Patrols produce weekly monitoring reports

Stakeholder identification and engagement

	**Stakeholders identified**	Stakeholders include: ▪Portel Municipality, Municipal Secretariat (SETRAS, SES, SEDE, SEMED and SEMAP)

		▪State and Federal Programmes (Estate secretariat: SEMA, SESPA, SEDUC, SAGRI, SECTI, SETER, SEDIP, SEAS; INCRA Regional superintendence; Paraense Emilio Goeldi Museum; Saberes da tierra; IBAMA) ▪Social Organisations and Institutions (Riparian settlers association; Catholic Church; Evangelical Church; Rural Cooperative) ▪Private Institutions (Land holders in the Project area; Ecosystem Services; Fishermen; Timber extractors; 'Regatones') ▪Local Actors and Organisations (Community organisations from the 'Vilas'; Fishermen association; Farmers; School teachers; Health post technicians; 'Fariñeros')
	Identification process	Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)
Full and effective participation		
	**Access to information and consultation**	A Participatory Rural Appraisal was developed through a series of field visits, observations, surveys, workshops and interviews to local leaders and experts.
	Participation in design and implementation	▪The Project's activities were conceived right after the social assessment was carried out and not the other way around. Therefore, local villagers not only were involved in the Project design, they actually provided the inputs for the ESLLC's team to design the Project. ▪In addition to the participation of community people in the community forest committees, and in decision making regarding the development and implementation of the project management plan, several other programmes will be implemented that require community participation, including paid monitoring jobs, Biodiversity and Natural Resource Use Monitoring Programme, and Forest Management. ▪The Project will design employment opportunities to make sure underrepresented groups of local villages have equal opportunities of finding employment in within the Project management and demonstrative activities.
	Feedback and grievance redress procedures	Grievance procedure will be implemented ▪Claims can be to multiple channels (Community liaison, project operator, community organisation) and through multiple means (Letter, use of official form, orally (face-to-face, telephone or radio) and confidential (suggestion box) ▪Claims will be assessed and if eligible, then the complainant will be contacted to explain the resolution method ▪It is hoped many complaints can be easily solved locally,

		if not then a formal response will be issued ▪Responses need to take into account an appropriate method of communication, who should communicate the message ▪Solution must be discussed with the complainant to ensure satisfaction ▪Complaints must be tracked to ensure resolution as agreed
	Worker relations	The Project will comply with the principles stated in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work adopted in 1998 and reviewed in 2010.
	Communities	
	**Without-project scenario**	Assessment based on community perceptions gathered through PRA. Description: • Moderate increase in population settled in the project area. • Increase in agricultural areas used to grow mainly cassava. Thereby, substantial increase in the forest areas affected by slash and burn projected. • Incursion of illegal loggers and illegal activities (invasions) seeking areas to extract timber. • Increase in timber extraction in the core sections of the project areas, with a related diminishment of timber resources nearby the villages. • Decline of fish stocks in rivers and water bodies due to over-fishing by large companies coming from Portel and Breves.
	With-project scenario	**Expected net benefits** ▪Secured land tenure ▪Diversification of food through agroforestry practices thus an improvement in local nutrition ▪More efficient technologies to produce farinha therefore less time consumed in this activity ▪Generation of income from monitoring activities ▪Better understanding of the importance of protecting the forest ▪Opportunity to develop local businesses through an external fund. **Possible negative impacts on other stakeholders and mitigation strategy** Not expected.
	Impact monitoring	**Indicators** ▪Monitoring plan not yet created ▪Possible activities to be monitored - Capacity building related to the monitoring and management of the forest

		and biodiversity; Improving organisational capacities of each community; Providing land ownership legal rights versus conservation results; Providing assistance to obtain land use rights over the forest owned by the government; Providing assistance and training in agroforestry techniques and implementing pilot cases; Capacity building related to efficient and improved cooking stoves and implementation of pilot demonstrative cases; Providing assistance and training on sustainable small scale timber extraction in the Leakage Management Area; Capacity building on the development of small community enterprises **Methodologies** Social Monitoring will be undertaken by social monitoring squads who will generate monthly activity reports. Each squad will be in charge of specific villages and will use approved questionnaires to gather socio-economic data about the impacts of the activities of the Project. **Frequency** Monthly
Biodiversity and ecosystem services		
	**Without–project scenario**	Assessed through literature review (all the species inventoried were gathered in current literature about Caxiuanã National Forest and Eastern Amazon fauna and flora). Variables discussed are vegetation cover, habitat, species populations Description: ▪Phanerogams in the area are responsible for approximately 62% of the region's representativeness. The second most predominant forest is the permanently flooded forest (igapó). ▪Numerous species of animals, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish. ▪The baseline scenario presents deforestation happening simultaneously in two fronts: a consolidated frontier that moves northwards to the Project Area; in the northern part, squatters (invaders) clear-cut patches of forest through slash and burn to prove land ownership and attempt a future land resale.
	With-project scenario	**Expected net benefits** ▪The Project will avoid ecosystems fragmentation and loss due to deforestation. ▪Currently, the monitoring in the Amazon forest is still incipient and fragmented. The Project will add another area of monitoring to the Amazon as a whole. **Possible negative offsite impacts and mitigation strategy**

	Not expected.
Impact monitoring	**Indicators** Area-limited species; resource-limited species; process-limited species; invertebrates groups; "special interest" species; bryophytes; land use and changes in vegetation cover **Methodologies** Biodiversity monitoring squads making reports every two weeks. Reports will provide geo-referenced information about biodiversity spotting and data as determined by the protocols. ▪Observations - Area-limited species, process-limited species, "special interest" species, land use and changes in vegetation cover ▪Collection - Resource-limited species, bryophytes – collection; ▪Observation and Collection - invertebrates groups **Frequency** ▪Monitoring every month, reporting every month – area-limited species, resource-limited species, "special interest species" ▪Monitoring every two months, reporting every two months – process limited species, invertebrates groups, bryophytes, ▪Monitoring every week, reporting every month – land use and changes in vegetation cover

Progress

Validation	VCS validation report issue date: 16 April 2013 CCBA validation report issue date: 28 March 2013
Verification	VCS verification period and report issue date: 01 Jan 2009 – 01 Jan 2012; 16 Feb. 2015
Credits issued	Number: 121,875 As of: 29 February 2016

Further information

▪Ecosystems Services LLC:
http://ecosystemllc.com/
▪VCS Database:
https://vcsprojectdatabase2.apx.com/myModule/Interactive.asp?Tab=Projects&a=2&i=977&lat=-2.350707&lon=-51.357692&bp=1
▪CCBA Database:
http://www.climate-standards.org/2012/07/02/rmdlt-portel-para-redd-project/

Documents reviewed

From VCS and CCBA websites: PD, PDD, Validation, Verification and Monitoring Reports