First Climate

◎ **Arkansas, USA**

The GreenTrees ACRE Program

An Advanced Carbon Restored Ecosystem project in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley

Emission Reductions	Project Technology	Project Standard
276,000t CO₂ e p.a.	**Afforestation/ Reforestation**	American Carbon Registry

The Mississippi Alluvial Valley (MAV) is the historic floodplain of the lower Mississippi River. It borders seven U.S states, from Missouri in the north to Louisiana at the river delta in the south. Once a heavily forested area, the river plain has changed dramatically during the last decades. About 80 percent of the original forest cover has been cleared for agricultural and other land use purposes.

Deforestation of the Mississippi Alluvial Valley has resulted in a decline in the quality of water and wildlife in the watershed due to the loss of its natural flood control buffer. Restoring the forests would lead to massive ecological benefits. The project aims to plant 1,000,000 acres of forest in the region, divided up into multiple planting years. It includes the planting of cottonwoods and native hardwoods on lands that have been used continuously for agricultural purposes over the last decades. Landowners commit to protecting the trees and harvest is only allowed when the trees have grown up to the point that crowding may cause some trees to die.

The project generates approximately 200 tons of CO2e redutctions for every acre of successfully established forest. Carbon finance mechanisms have been considered to be critical in order to present conservation as a profitable land use and steer landowners away from traditional agricultural practices which degrade the local ecosystem. The GreenTrees Program is the first forestry project approved by the American Carbon Registry.

info

about project standards and technologies:
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Supported Sustainable Development Goals

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
13 CLIMATE ACTION
15 LIFE ON LAND

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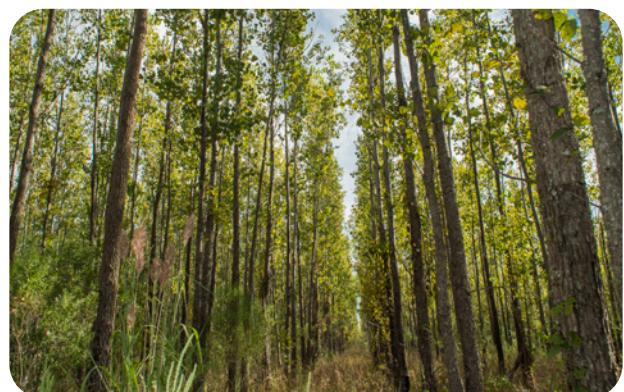
Sustainable Development

Beyond removing carbon emissions, all our climate protection projects generate multiple additional benefits for people and the environment. These projects support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
The project contributes to an improvement of overall water quality. It minimizes soil erosion, absorbs farm chemicals from surface runoff and groundwater, and reduces sediment and pesticide contamination of streams.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
The project provides income to struggling farmers and landowners through the combination of carbon offset revenues and private capital investment. It also generates jobs for harvesters and wood processors for those landowners that are allowed and opt for these activities.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
Biomass from the forests are harvested in accordance with the project's specifications. For example, deriving from timber thinning can be used for efficient energy generation or other purposes.

13 CLIMATE ACTION
Woodland and forests are, aside from oceans, the most important carbon stores on earth. By restoring forests, the project will significantly aid carbon sequestering and thus help to slow down climate change.

15 LIFE ON LAND
Reforestation restores the natural habitat for a series of species. The MAV is a flyway for 60% of all birds in North America; almost 40% of America's waterflow migrate along it. It has been estimated that the type of planting performed in this project houses twice the amount of birds than other forms of reforestation.

Disclaimer: The displayed SDGs are selected based on relevance and project evaluations by First Climate.