

About Rainforest2Reef

As rainforests disappear at an unprecedented rate, tropical deforestation is now one of the leading causes of both global warming and species extinction. With so much on the line, saving the threatened ecosystems of Mexico and Central America has become a top priority for conservationists.

Rainforest2Reef's mission is to protect biodiversity, maintain ecosystem services, and slow climate change by safeguarding tropical forests, coral reefs and the corridors connecting these threatened habitats. We do this by working in partnership with local communities to protect ecologically important lands through innovative mechanisms, using sound scientific research to manage and monitor protected areas, and developing non-extractive economic activities that improve livelihoods of local people.

Rainforest2Reef (formerly Friends of Calakmul) is exempt from U.S. tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.



Rainforest2Reef

To learn more about the Selva Maya Carbon Project, please contact:

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Rainforest2Reef

Innovative Solutions for Climate,
Communities and Biodiversity



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THE PROBLEM

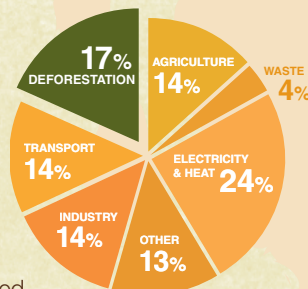
DEFORESTATION

Deforestation and Climate Change

Every year, the loss of 15-25 million acres of tropical rainforests adds between 0.9 to 2.2 billion metric tons of carbon to the atmosphere, equivalent to 15% to 30% of global annual emission from fossil fuels.

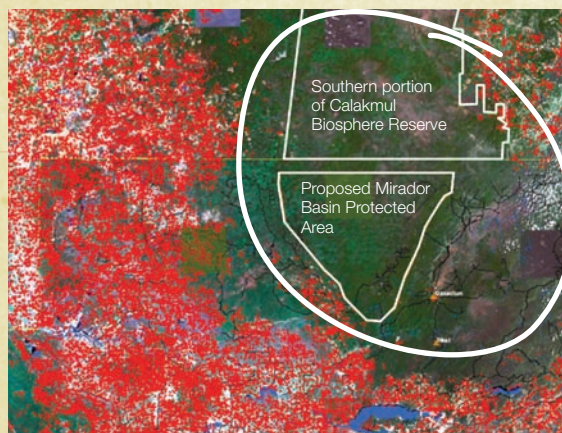
This is more than road, air, rail and sea transportation combined >

If current trends continue, tropical deforestation will release about 50% as much carbon into the atmosphere as has been emitted from worldwide combustion of fossil fuels since the start of the industrial revolution.



Source: World Resources Institute, 2000

Fires in the Selva Maya



Map courtesy of NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration), GHF (Global Heritage Fund), and FARES (Foundation For Anthropological Research and Environmental Studies)

■ Forested Area ■ Burning Rainforest

As indicated by the map above, outside of protected areas, slash and burn agriculture is destroying the Selva Maya at an alarming rate. If planned development projects are carried out, experts predict that more than 750,000 acres of the Selva Maya will be lost and roughly 225 million tons of carbon will be released into the atmosphere, in the next 30 years*

*Conde et al, 2007

THE SOLUTION

CONSERVATION

The Selva Maya Carbon Offset Project

Rainforest2Reef is at the forefront of a global movement to offset carbon emissions through avoided deforestation. Our work focuses on the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve, which is part of the 6 million-acre Selva Maya Rainforest. Since our founding, we have developed a unique and effective approach to land protection—we sign permanent and binding conservation lease agreements with local communities, called ejidos. These agreements ensure that ejidos refrain from logging and other destructive activities.

Through these agreements Rainforest2Reef has protected 182,000 acres of rainforest habitat and has prevented more than a million tons of carbon from entering the atmosphere.

Selva Maya Carbon Offset Project Components

Additionality

All carbon offset projects must demonstrate that carbon reductions are “additional” to what would have occurred in the absence of the project. In the absence of the Selva Maya Carbon Offset Project, and annual payments from the international community, more than a million tons of carbon would have been emitted into the atmosphere as a result of logging.

Leakage

Leakage refers to the displacement of logging that could result outside of our project area. Rainforest2Reef partnered with local communities surrounding the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve to plant hundreds of thousands of trees to mitigate the displacement of emissions by the project, including market demand for wood.



THE BENEFIT TO YOUR BUSINESS

THE SELVA MAYA CARBON OFFSET PROJECT

The Multiple Benefits of The Selva Maya Carbon Offset Project

By participating in avoided deforestation offsets, early mover companies can:

- Lock up some of the most attractive and cost effective offset opportunities
- Gain a competitive advantage over slower moving competition
- Develop capacity to participate in rapidly evolving carbon markets
- Build internal knowledge in preparation for regulations established by the Kyoto Protocol
- Enhance their reputation as a leader in corporate social responsibility



Confronting Climate Change
Rainforest2Reef's efforts have prevented more than a million tons of CO₂ from entering the atmosphere.

Empowering Communities:
Rainforest2Reef works on behalf of local communities who own large parcels of rainforest land.

We also work with local communities to develop income-generating alternatives to logging.



Conserving Biodiversity

Rainforest2Reef's work in the Selva Maya protects 60,000 species of plants and animals, including 130 that are currently endangered.

