

# Camino Verde Fact Sheet 2013

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Camino Verde is a US 501c3 nonprofit organization based in Peru dedicated to conserving biodiversity in the Peruvian Amazon; protecting indigenous rights, autonomy, and wisdom; and spreading sustainable ways of life by encouraging fair, sustainable product development. Focused on the Tambopata river basin in Madre de Dios, Peru, the strategic programs described in this fact sheet support our mission.

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## Tree Planting *12,000 trees planted*

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- 250 species planted at its reforestation center in Baltimore near Puerto Maldonado, Peru
- CV has recently purchased an additional 60 acres for a total of 250 acres for tree planting in Baltimore, which is in the Tambopata river basin in Madre de Dios, in the buffer zone of the Tambopata Reserve, a biodiversity hotspot.
- Six companies partner with Camino Verde, providing a share of profits or contributions to carbon offset programs (<http://caminoverde.org/our-projects/carbon-offsets>).

## Living Seed Bank *Concentration on preserving and reproducing seeds of the most overexploited plants, which are timber*

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- 20 acres of trees planted including 70 different fruit tree species and 40 ornamental flowering species
- Species include - avocado, banana, brazil nut, cacao, cashew, coffee, cotton, grapefruit, lemons, mahogany, mandarin, mango, oranges, papaya, tropical persimmon, teak, tropical cedar, star fruit, zapote (large fruit)
- The new CV plant nursery in Baltimore produces up to 2500 tree seedlings a year supported by a 20-foot water tower, visitor center, and staff lodging.
- Collaborating Partners:
  - Instituto para la investigación de la amazonía peruana (IIAP)** - The Peruvian Amazon Research Institute is a Peruvian government organization that runs plant nurseries in Madre de Dios and Loreto. For years they have provided Camino Verde with plant nursery assistance and propagation of seedlings from seeds gathered by Camino Verde. IIAP acquired initial rosewood seedlings for CV as part of the new CV essential oil program.
  - Zackin Publications** - This US based company supports planting of trees and regular maintenance costs to help maintain CV's Living Seed Bank - <http://caminoverde.org/our-projects/carbon-offsets>.

## Helping Tambopata River Farmers *CV has helped 30 local farmers on the Tambopata River plant 5000 trees on 35 acres (15 hectares) of orchards on their farms. For example:*

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- Local farmer Juan Rafaele has lived in Tambopata for over 20 years. CV has helped him plant 500 trees in the last 4 years. Native to Abancay, Apurimac, in the Andean highlands of Peru, his native language is Quechua. He came to Madre de Dios and Tambopata in search of greater economic opportunity. His economic base is the production of annual grains (corn and rice) and perennial staple crops (plantains, bananas, cassava), and a variety of fruit tree species.
- In 2009 Camino Verde began supporting Juan with tree seedlings of both fruit trees (citrus) and long-term alternatives including old growth hardwood trees (mahogany and others) and brazil nuts.

**Forest Conservation** *In 2010, Camino Verde partnered with Maderera Lazo and the eco-tourism initiative Tambopata Trek to create and manage a 1,000-acre conservation area within the timber concession. These 1,000 acres will be protected in perpetuity. This area is contiguous with Camino Verde's own 250 acres of land, forming an important green area within the buffer zone of the Tambopata National Reserve.*

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- CV maintains a trail circuit within the conservation area, collecting seeds and detecting signs of trespassing.
- **Ministerio del ambiente (MINAM)** - The Peruvian government's Ministry of the Environment recently certified Camino Verde's reforestation site as a Private Conservation Area in perpetuity. This recognition has been followed by the creation of a collaborative management plan for the protection of Camino Verde's pristine rainforest area, "Camino Verde Baltimore" (named for the community of Baltimore on the Tambopata River).
- **Sociedad peruana de derecho ambiental (SPDA)** - The Peruvian Society for Environmental Law is a collaborating partner that helped Camino Verde achieve government recognition for our private conservation area and provided consultation for the development of the management plan for the area. SPDA invested \$8,000 in infrastructure development for a visitor center at Camino Verde's reforestation site and later provided a seed funds grant of \$5,200 for purchase of essential oil distillation equipment.

**Documenting Indigenous Knowledge** *of Amazonian medicinal plants, in order to create an Amazonian Herbal Healing Guidebook*

**Developing Essential Oil** *product for CV and a reforestation plan for Brazilian Rosewood with native communities in northern Peru. This species (from the cinnamon family)—the leaves, bark, wood, and roots smell like roses—is highly endangered. It produces an essential oil used by perfume makers and in aroma therapy/alternative medicine. It can be harvested sustainably and provide significant economic benefits - 1 liter of essential oil is worth between \$500 and \$1,000. Producing small amounts has a low carbon footprint and is easy and inexpensive to ship. Thus far CV has provided:*

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- 900 rosewood trees for these native communities (i.e., Brillo Nuevo of the Bora ethnic group)
- 360 trees in Puerto Maldonado.
- Collaborating partners for essential oil product include:

**Center for Amazon Community Ecology (CACE)** - This US-based nonprofit organization founded by ethnobotanist Campbell Plowden of Penn State. Partnership involves joint development of the essential oil project and our contact in Brillo Nuevo, the native community where we've planted 900 rosewood trees.

**Floracopeia, Inc.** - This company creates essential oils and other aromatic products for therapeutic use. Founder David Crowe is a well-respected developer of these products and emphasizes community involvement in the production. It has received rosewood samples from CV and is analyzing them. The business relationship is to be determined.

**Marjorie Grant Whiting Center (MGWC)** - This private foundation funded Camino Verde's initial collaboration with CACE (see above) to develop essential oils as non-timber forest products. MGWC has given over \$20,000 in grants to support Camino Verde's initiatives.