



Restored ecosystems remove CO₂

Assisted natural regeneration, Northern Highlands, Ethiopia

The Ethiopian highlands are facing intense degradation and loss in biodiversity. That is why so-called "exclosures" have become increasingly important. In these areas, vegetation is being regenerated and protected. Livestock and uncontrolled woodcutting are excluded from these areas. In this way, the project aims to protect about 540 hectares of "exclosures", which will remove about 5,530 tonnes of CO₂ emissions per year from the atmosphere, further improve the vegetation and reduce soil erosion.

In addition, the project supports landless farmers in implementing soil and water conservation, enrichment planting and applying improved management techniques. It also helps with installing distillation units for aromatic oil production and beehives for honey production. By building local capacities and providing free training on the sustainable use of these ecosystems, the rural household income for landless farmers is improved and community-wide benefits are created.

How Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) contributes to climate action

There is a wide range of approaches to regenerating forest landscapes: from self-regeneration, where native trees and plants grow back naturally, to active regeneration, where seedlings are grown and planted in the forest. In between these two approaches lies Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR), which accelerates the natural regeneration of the forest.

The local population can support this drawing on traditional knowledge about nature and land. For example, firebreaks minimise the risk of forest fires, or native trees are given enough space by removing invasive grasses and shrubs.

Research from 2020 (World Resources Institute) shows that natural regeneration of forests can absorb 23 percent of global CO₂ emissions each year. Thus, ANR climate projects represent a particularly promising and viable approach to climate action. The ANR projects in the ClimatePartner portfolio are registered with international standards.



Contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

SDG 1 · No Poverty

Locals are supported in nurturing and planting seedlings and trained to harvest grass sustainably to feed livestock. The project offers special training for women and young adults in e. g. apiculture, agroforestry, and fodder production.

SDG 8 · Decent Work and Economic Growth

The project has established a distillation centre to produce francincense essential oil and introduced beehives to produce honey, which provides an additional income stream for the 20 communities involved.

SDG 13 · Climate Action

The project removes about 5,530 tons of CO₂ emissions per year from the atmosphere.

SDG 15 · Life on Land

Through better management of exclosures, rainwater infiltration helps to stabilise groundwater tables, which provides an opportunity for irrigation agriculture.



Project standard
Plan Vivo

Technology
Assisted natural regeneration

Region
Northern Highlands, Ethiopia

Estimated annual emission reductions
5,537 t CO₂e



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Further information
www.climatepartner.com/1479