

Release

## After planting over 40 thousand trees in the Amazon, Idesam's Carbon Neutral Program prepares for expansion

*The CO<sub>2</sub> offsetting initiative is responsible for recovering 330 thousand square meters of forest in the Uatumã Sustainable Development Reserve (RDS, in Portuguese)*

Through its 15 years of experience working directly with communities from the Amazon, Idesam learned that keeping the forest standing is only possible when those who live there have quality of life. Considering that, [Idesam's Carbon Neutral Program](#) wants to go beyond the 40 thousand trees planted and the 330 thousand square meters of reforested area in the Uatumã Sustainable Development Reserve. Next year, the program prepares its expansion to the municipality of Apuí, southern Amazonas.

Expanding to new places is aligned with the Carbon Neutral Program's proposal of connecting urban centers, companies, events and individuals to responsible actions in the Amazon. The expansion also means more opportunities to offset greenhouse gas emissions through Agroforestry Systems (SAFs, in Portuguese), besides providing a new model of social and economic development for more families.

"The program meets an internal demand for income generation and quality of life within the reserve, but it is also related to this global and urgent demand for solutions for the Amazon and to tackle climate change. Understanding the potentialities of riverine communities, the Carbon Neutral Program also seeks to enable production chains that are replicable even in other Conservation Units", highlights Ramom Morato, Idesam's agroecology coordinator.

The program's mission is also to make these approximately 30 beneficiary families practical examples to be followed, showing that the forest is much more profitable and productive when conserved. To do that, Idesam's Carbon Neutral Program favors the planting of species that have higher economic value for the communities.

This system allows the combination of food production for local consumption and the forest, making it possible to recover degraded areas and turn them into a productive forest, ensuring food security and generating income for local families.

It is worth it to remind the commitment that Brazil made under the Paris Agreement. Until 2025, Brazil [pledged](#) to cut by 37% its greenhouse gas emissions from 2005 levels, when the country emitted around 2.1 billion tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).

Originally, families prepared their land by deforesting to plant. Nowadays, the Carbon Neutral Program takes agroforestry as an alternative to deforestation. In addition, the economic benefits were essential for the reserve's residents to change their minds about the Agroforestry System, as the program's environmental engineer Jefferson Araújo points out.

Right in the beginning of the program in 2010, Araújo highlights that some of the difficulties were to get seedlings of quality and the low cultural acceptance of people regarding the planting of SAFs. Today, more and more families are becoming interested in implementing the system given the results obtained with it - such as the diversity of food produced and the recovery of degraded areas.

"All the manpower needed to carry out the plantings is from the reserve, no one is brought in from outside. This makes them more autonomous, increasing their purchase power, the possibility of buying a product, what drives the local economy", emphasizes Jefferson Araújo.



## **How to Contribute**

Individuals, events, concerts and [companies](#) can directly contribute to the program by offsetting their emissions with Agroforestry Systems. Idesam provides a [CO<sub>2</sub> Calculator](#) through which people can estimate their annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

When choosing Idesam's Carbon Neutral Program, it is possible to even support people like Mariza Nobre, community member who is one of the main PCN's partners in the Uatumã RDS. She is also responsible for one of the four nurseries that produce seedlings for the program. With this, she indirectly drives a parallel economy in the community as the labor from other residents is needed.

"The people and companies that are behind and making this happen are very important in this chain, so that we keep expanding and more families can join the PCN. The SAF has been proving to be a great source of sustainable income generation, as long as it is well managed and monitored", says Nobre.

According to Idesam's Climate Change and REDD+ Program manager Pedro Soares, the SAFs are constantly monitored and inventoried to obtain the most accurate number of carbon sequestered over time. "The PCN continues to seek new customers and partners that want to contribute to reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and improving the quality of life of those living in the reserve", he adds.

Learn more

[Click here to access our CO<sub>2</sub> Calculator](#)

[Watch our video about Idesam's Carbon Neutral Program](#)

[Check out the pictures of the program on our official Flickr](#)

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