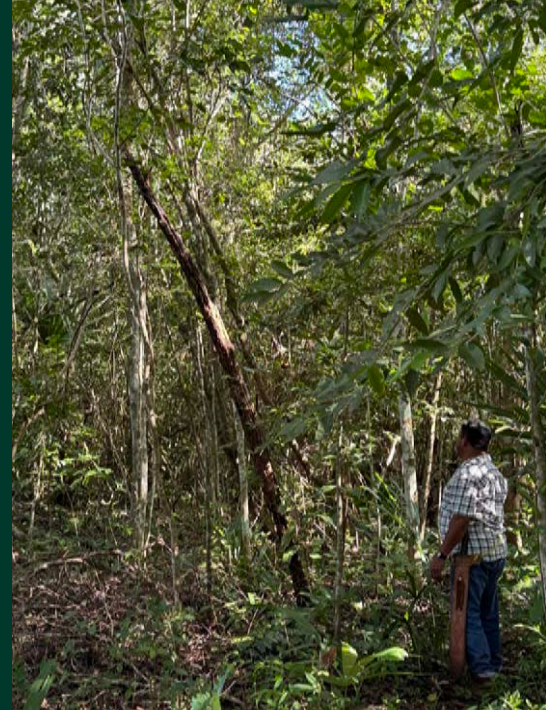


## PROJECT NARRATIVE

# Petcacab Improved Forest Management

 Quintana Roo, Mexico Nature-based project

## Project overview

Rooted in the heart of Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula, the Petcacab community's Indigenous-led IFM project offers a compelling opportunity for buyers seeking high-integrity carbon credits that deliver meaningful social impact and strengthen ecosystem health and services. Carbon Direct recommends this project for its exceptional quality and co-benefits: empowering local communities, providing sustainable economic opportunities, protecting native biodiversity, and restoring degraded ecosystems. Recognized as one of the strongest IFM projects reviewed by Carbon Direct, it demonstrates clear evidence of additionality, supported by robust carbon accounting and low reversal risk.

“

The rainforest for me represents my home, my work, my present, my future. We have a very daring challenge: to transform how we manage our forest, shifting from harvesting and selling timber to conserving it through the sale of carbon credits that support the development of our community.”



Celso Chan Rivas  
*Carbon Project General Manager*

## Project details: Petcacab IFM



**Image 1.** Ejidatarios are trained to measure the project's carbon inventory.

**Location:** Petcacab and Polinkín Ejido  
(Petcacab) in Quintana Roo

**Country:** Mexico

**Total project area:** 13,001 hectares

**Habitat:** Subtropical deciduous forest

**Registry:** Climate Action Reserve (CAR)

**Registry ID:** CAR 1514

**Standards:** CAR IFM Protocol v2.0

**Project type:** Improved forest management (IFM)

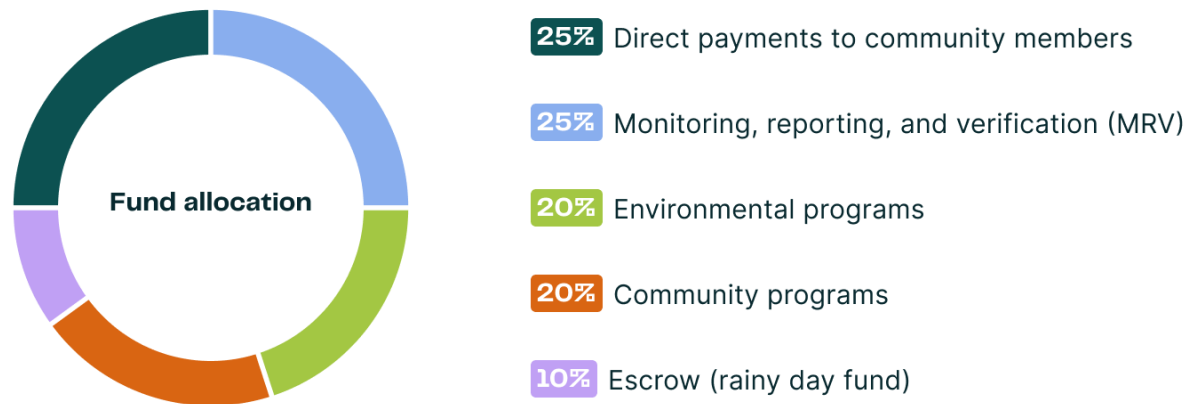
## Project objective

Located within the communal ejido lands surrounding Petcacab, this project is collectively managed by ejidatarios (community members with legal rights to use and steward the land). The local population is 100% Indigenous Mayan. Historically, the ejido relied heavily on harvesting tropical softwoods and hardwoods for their livelihoods,<sup>1</sup> which led to widespread deforestation and ecosystem degradation.<sup>2</sup> The ejido requires financial support and resources to transition to sustainable forest management. This project addresses those needs by implementing IFM practices that generate high-quality carbon credits. The resulting revenue offers financial incentives while supporting livelihoods, reduces the risk of the area being overexploited again, and enables long-term forest conservation.

## Real world impact

### ☆ Advancing inclusive benefit sharing and community livelihoods

Project benefits are shared across the community, providing social and economic equity from forest resources. Activities like selective harvesting, nursery establishment, pest management, and boundary monitoring generate local jobs and skills development opportunities. Sustainable wood harvesting supports additional income streams through the production of furniture, construction materials, and handicrafts. The project developer provided evidence to demonstrate that carbon credit revenue also funds community infrastructure and services. These include the construction of a new clinic with essential supplies and staffed with a permanent doctor, ongoing support for a multi-purpose community center, a boarding facility for visiting healthcare professionals, and the development of a local employment program.



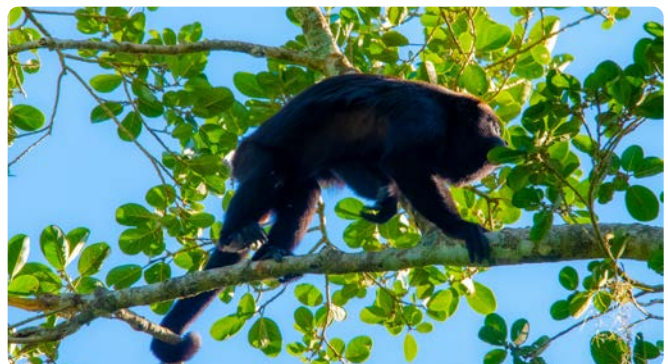
**Figure 1.** Carbon credit revenue allocation promotes social and economic equity for the ejido.

## Promoting biodiversity and enhancing ecosystem health and services

The Petcacab forests are home to ecologically and culturally important native species to the Maya community. Restoring these critical habitats is essential for the survival of endangered species like the black howler monkey and the spider monkey,<sup>3</sup> both vital to seed dispersal and natural forest regeneration. Native bird species, including Pájaro Toh, ocellated turkey, collared araçari (under special protection), and burrowing owls, are deeply rooted in local traditions but are increasingly threatened by habitat loss and human activities. Through IFM practices such as pest control, biodiversity monitoring, and habitat revitalization, this project enhances ecosystem health and services.



**Image 2:** Tucán pico canoa, a native toucan with a striking rainbow-colored bill.



**Image 3:** Mono aullador negro, an endangered monkey species critical to seed dispersal, and listed as 'in danger of extinction' under the Official Mexican Standard (NOM).

## Preserving traditional, Indigenous culture

This project is grounded in the communal structure of the Petcacab Ejido, which has more than 30 years of experience in conserving and governing these forests. Decisions are made collectively through community assemblies, where 206 ejidatarios exercise voting rights, ensuring that traditional Maya values and knowledge guide project governance. Women play an active role both culturally and economically, working in sawmills, crafting goods, and managing sales locally and online. A women's collective operates a handicraft workshop, which strengthens local livelihoods, preserves traditional craftsmanship, and reinforces community heritage.



**Image 4:** Petcacab's ejido is known for its proactive approach to communal decision-making through regular assemblies.



**Image 5:** Local women not only produce crafts but also manage their own storefronts.

## About Carbon Direct

Carbon Direct is the trusted advisor to global carbon market leaders. We work with buyers to curate and source customized portfolios of high-quality carbon projects aligned with their impact goals, and with developers to provide scientific, operational, and commercialization support. Our experts empower climate leaders to navigate the carbon market with confidence through a science-backed diligence process, streamlined spot and offtake contracting, industry-leading delivery protections, and ongoing MMRV.

To learn more visit: [www.carbon-direct.com](http://www.carbon-direct.com).

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