

Katingan Mentaya Project, Indonesia

**The Carbon Code: Trading, Tracking
& Transforming Emissions**

Himanshu Shete (23B0770)

**Project Type: REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation
and Degradation)**



Project Overview

Location: Central Kalimantan, Indonesia

Area Covered: ~157,000 hectares of peat swamp forest

Project Proponent: PT Rimba Makmur Utama (RMU)

Standard: Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) + CCB Gold

Started: 2010s — Ongoing

Mechanism: Avoided deforestation and peatland protection



Objectives

- Prevent the release of massive CO₂ emissions from peatland degradation
- Provide an alternative, sustainable economic model to palm oil or timber plantations
- Enable carbon trading via voluntary carbon markets



Methodology

Baseline Scenario: Estimation of emissions had the land been converted to plantations

Project Scenario: Protection of peat swamp forests and rewetting of degraded areas

Monitoring:

1. Satellite-based land-use monitoring
2. Peat depth and water table level measurements
3. Emission modeling using VCS-approved methods



Carbon Reduction/Removal Impact

- I. Total Carbon Credits Issued (so far): Over 30 million tCO₂e
- II. Annual Emissions Avoided: ~7.5 million tCO₂e
- III. Carbon Sink Type: Avoided emissions (not sequestration)



Community & Ecological Benefits

- I. Jobs: Created ~500+ local jobs
- II. Health: Reduced forest fires → improved air quality
- III. Biodiversity: Protects habitat for endangered species like the orangutan
- IV. Livelihoods: Agroforestry, fish farming, eco-tourism promoted among locals



Credibility / Verification

Verified Carbon Standard (VCS): Managed by Verra

CCB Gold Level: For exceptional community and biodiversity benefits

MRV Framework:

- I. Measurement: Satellite and field data
- II. Reporting: Transparent issuance reports
- III. Verification: Independent third-party auditors (e.g., SCS Global Services)



Role in Carbon Trading

- I. Buyers: Corporates like Shell, Disney, and Microsoft for carbon offsetting
- II. Market: Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM)
- III. Registries Used: Verra Registry
- IV. Price Range (historical): ~\$5–\$12/tonne
- V. Co-benefit premiums: Due to biodiversity/community gold rating



Criticism / Controversy

- I. Allegations of over-crediting or inflated baselines (debated)
- II. Push for increased transparency in VCMs
- III. Still among the more credible REDD+ models



Summary

The Katingan Mentaya Project is a large-scale REDD+ initiative that exemplifies carbon tracking, MRV systems, and trading within the voluntary carbon market.

Shows how emissions reductions can be independently verified, priced, and traded — in line with “The Carbon Code” principles.