

Plan Vivo producer profile

Dona Maximiliana Emma Pacha | ArBolivia, Bolivia



Dona Maximiliana Emma Pacha heard about the ArBolivia project in 2007 and was very keen to join but her smallholding was not eligible because it had been deforested less than ten years before. Unperturbed she put her land on the market and set out to find a new property which did meet the criteria. Having found one near San Buenaventura she joined the Project in 2008 and began preparing her Land Use Plan ("Plan Vivo"). She planted one hectare of teak, inter-planted with guava and cassava. In 2009 she established 0.2 hectares of agro-forestry with mandarins that are just starting to provide a decent income. Last year Emma planted a small area with a native species, Palo Yugo, to help protect a watercourse from erosion in a deforested section of her land.

Community: San Buenaventura

Year Joined: 2008

Activity type: Mixed Species

Area planted: 5 ha

Carbon benefit: 249 tCO₂

Buyer: Zero Mission



The area around San Buenaventura is the traditional home of the Tacana people but their lands have to a considerable extent been taken over by migrant settlers from the High Andean plateau and subsequently decimated by "slash and burn" agriculture. Emma is proud of her Tacana heritage but the old ways have more or less disappeared now – too much land has been cleared, there are no more animals to hunt and there is no longer a demand for traditional crafts and medicines.

"My Husband died 8 years ago and now I have to look after my four children and also my parents, who are elderly and can no longer work. I work 5 days a week on the new road, clearing the undergrowth by hand. At the weekends I look after my farm – its hard work but I've never been afraid of that. I just want to make sure that my children can look forward to a better life in the future.

I chose teak because I know that is a valuable species and I know it grows well here. My technical adviser from ArBolivia (who is also Tacana) told me that our native species would grow more slowly to start with but they would catch up in time. Now I have seen he was right – he knows his trees and I can trust him. Now my neighbours can see what I have achieved and they know that they can trust ArBolivia to help them too!"



Landsat maps of the area in 1995 and 2005 - deforested areas in pink

