



PROJECT TARSIER



Verified Carbon Standard

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Project title	<i>Project Tarsier</i>
Project ID	<i>5714</i>
Crediting period	<i>22-September 2022 to 6 September 2052, 30 years</i>
Original date of issue	<i>For pipeline listing, 29-August-2025 is the date of submission</i>
Most recent date of issue	<i>24-September-2025 is the date on which the document was most recently submitted</i>
Version	<i>V 1.1</i>
VCS Standard Version	<i>VCS v4.7</i>
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Project Details (PDD)

- Reforestation project targeting Climate, Community and Biodiversity (CCB) through Afforestation, Reforestation and Revegetation (ARR)
- Focused on working with communities to reforest degraded lands
- Communities raise seedlings of native and naturalised species then carry out planting, maintenance and protections of reforested areas



Community meetings as part of FPIC



Quality checks on community-raised seedlings

Project Details (PDD)

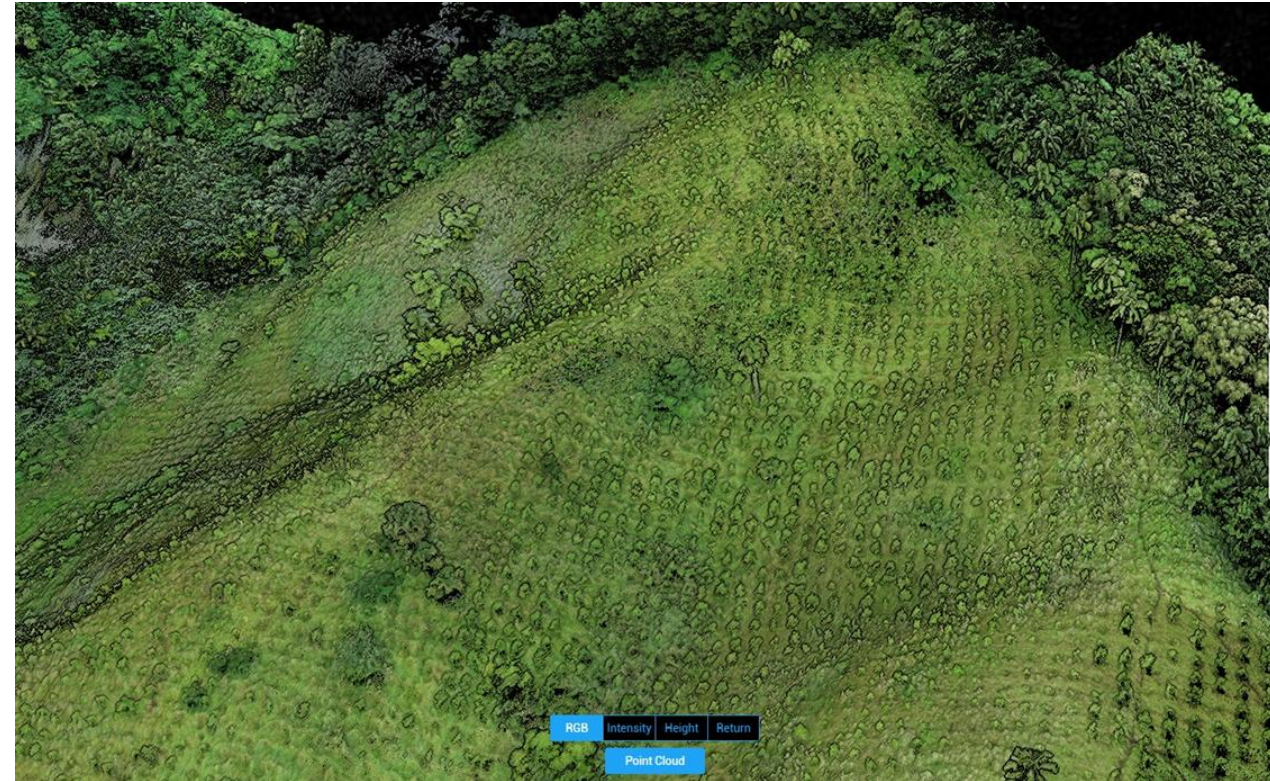
- Objectives:
 - Restore and protect up to 5,000 ha of community-managed land
 - Conservation, enhancement and monitoring of biodiversity in PA
 - Achievement of GHG removals and their monitoring
 - Provision of positive, long-term socio-economic and livelihood benefits to communities through a comprehensive research-for-development program
 - Undertaking of the project in a manner that is accountable and transparent
 - Maintenance of good standing with central and local government and other external stakeholder



Members of partner People's Organisation in PPE supplied by the project

Project Details (PDD)

- Methodology – VM 0047 Afforestation, Reforestation and Revegetation (active since 14-05-2025) and follows Module VMD0054, tool AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool and tool VT0008
- Pipeline listing start date is 7 September 2022
- Grouped Project with a crediting period of period of 30 years
 - 1072 ha planted in areas managed by 21 Pos
 - Phase 1 consists of 3 annual planting cohorts from 2022 to 2024 that are treated as distinct project activity instances
 - Expect removal of 653,524 tCO₂e or an average of 21,784 tCO₂e



LiDAR point cloud of planting area with RGB colours applied

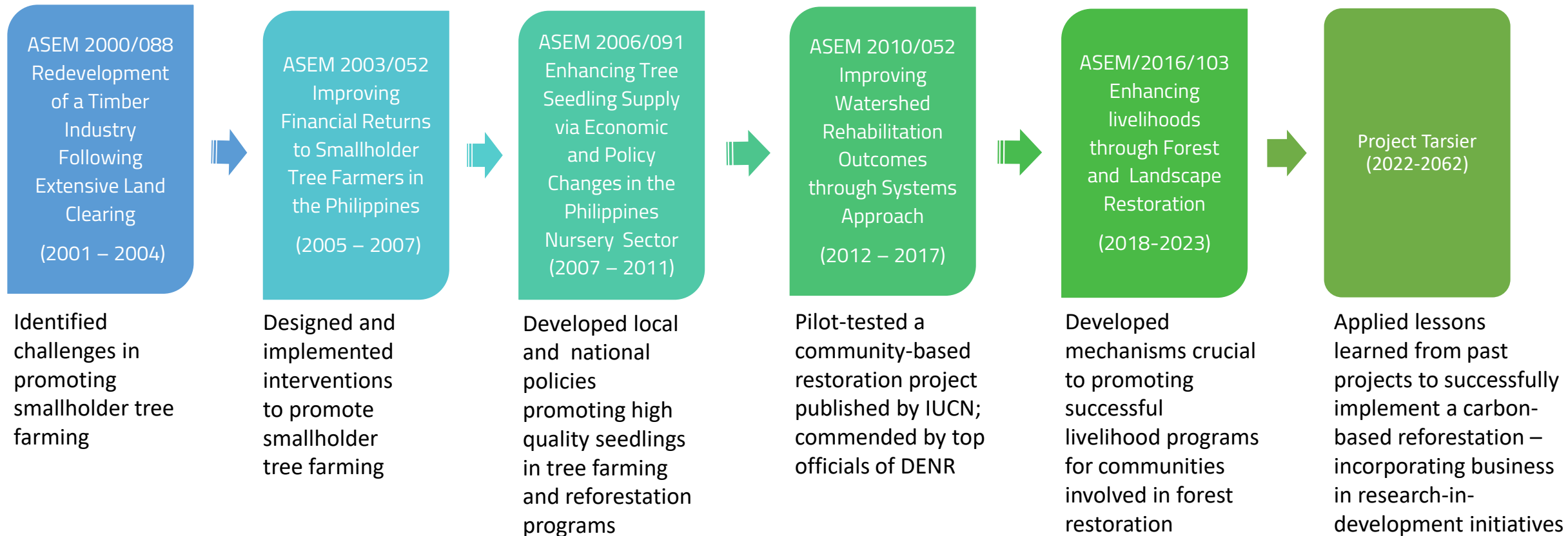
Project Benefits

- Strengthens governance of areas under CBFMAs to ensure improvement and maintenance of forest carbon
- Investments will increase the capacity of PO members, communities, and other stakeholder groups including their financial, human, natural, social and physical capital
- Reforested areas will contribute to biodiversity gains and connectivity
- Improved landscape management will reduce communities' vulnerabilities to climate change and increase their resilience to changes



Financial literacy training for PO members

The evolution of Project Tarsier



Project Tarsier - Forest restoration for people and nature (Philippines)

- Collaborative research for development project
 - Based on the same model used in ACIAR projects – Over 20 years
 - Partnership between USC and VSU with funding by Shell
 - Research and new knowledge creation built into all project activities
 - large-scale rehabilitation of deforested and degraded forest landscapes
 - Restores about 5,000 ha in Eastern Visayas, Philippines
 - Promotes food security and alleviates poverty of forest-dependent communities - sustainable livelihoods and capacity building program (x18)
 - Uses a Forest and Landscape Restoration approach
- Shell provides funding for reforestation and research and receives credits for carbon sequestered
 - Carbon credits will be generated under the Gold Standard. The generation of carbon credits funds both the reforestation activities and sustainable livelihood development for local communities.



Project areas in Biliran, Leyte, Southern Leyte provinces and Island of Samar in the Philippines:



Nature-based solutions

We are investing to protect and enhance natural ecosystems that capture CO₂ emissions, benefit local communities, and improve biodiversity. We use the carbon credits these projects generate to help customers decarbonise by compensating for their emissions.



What are nature-based solutions?



Benefits to climate, communities, and biodiversity



Which projects do we work with?



Ensuring projects make a difference



Restoring degraded land in the Philippines

In the Philippines we are working with University of Sunshine Coast and Visayas State University to restore over 10,000 hectares of deforested land on the Islands of Leyte and Biliran. These islands have experienced significant forest loss since the 1960's attributed to both legal and illegal logging, agricultural conversion, and wildlife and timber poaching.

The developing parties are working closely with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Local Government Units, and People's Organizations (POs) who hold Community-based Forest Management (CBFM) land tenure to restore and maintain the forests.

Find out more about the Project 



<https://www.shell.com/energy-and-innovation/new-energies/nature-based-solutions.html>

Partner agencies/Primary stakeholders

- Visayas State University (VSU) - Leading academic institution in agriculture and forestry in the Visayas Region and a partner of ACIAR including our series of projects from 2000.
- Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
- Local Government Units (LGUs)
- People's Organisations (POs).
- Communities



1 year Narra (*Pterocarpus*)
planted in September 2024 –
average ht = 2.4 m, 3 cm
dbh)

Progress and challenges

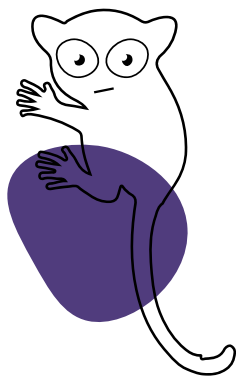
- Planting 2022-2024 – 1072 ha completed
- ANR much more challenging than expected and requiring a refocus on reforestation
- Scaling up for 2024 has been challenging including issues around seedling production, access to quality germplasm, lack of availability of native species
- Community understanding of project
- Building local staff skills and capacity
- Managing quality control across communities
- Government regulatory environment and on-ground actions



Large-scale research for development project

- The project provides a living laboratory: a unique opportunity for research on key knowledge gaps on how to implement reforestation at scale with communities for socioeconomic and environmental benefits.





Research themes	Activities (short title)
1.Improving Reforestation Project Design and Funding	1.1 Project impacts
	1.2 Funding reforestation carbon projects
	1.3 Health, Security, Safety, and Environment (HSSE)
2. Improving Stakeholder Engagement	2.1 Community engagement
	2.2 Capacity building
	2.3 Gender dynamics
	2.4 Benefit sharing
3.Afforestation, Reforestation, and Revegetation Systems	3.1 Potential and outcomes of different Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) approaches
	3.2 Potential and outcomes of different active reforestation approaches
	3.3 Silviculture of native species for restoration
	3.4 Biodiversity outcomes of restoration
	3.5 Water use patterns for different tree species
4. Livelihood Projects	4.1 Livelihoods and capacity
	4.2 Value chains for smallholder and community products
5. Socioeconomic Aspects	5.1 Economic analysis of community engagement and capacity building
	5.2 Economic analysis of different Afforestation Reforestation and Revegetation systems
	5.3 Economic analysis of landscapes
	5.4 Labour profile for forest carbon projects
6. Use of Remote Sensing in Reforestation Projects	6.1 Remote sensing for carbon monitoring
	6.2 Using remotely piloted aircraft (RPAs) for land management
7. Carbon Stocks and Accumulation	7.1 Carbon potential of different land use systems
	7.2 Carbon from avoided degradation
	7.3 Carbon and community
8. Policy and Governance	8.1 Policy implications in the Philippines
	8.2 Global policy implications



Data being collected

- Detailed socio-economic surveys, repeated intervals
- Community impacts and experiences
- Biophysical data – soil, climate, hydrological, vegetation
- Seedlings tracked from nurseries to planting site
- Plant physiology data – plot based
- Growth data – plot based
- Drone LiDAR, sensor and photogrammetry data across entire estate complimented by ground-based LiDAR
- Detailed financial data related to project activities
- Biodiversity baseline data and monitoring
- Data integrated into many research activities



Camera trap monitoring fauna biodiversity



One of 3 weather stations

[Project Tarsier highlights.mp4](#)

Imperate grass control experiment



Some current research

- Carbon models for Community Forestry
- Health, Safety, Security and Environment in Carbon Projects
- Early-age silviculture of mixed species systems with a focus on natives
 - Weed management during planting phase
 - Early maintenance activities
- Silviculture systems – species selection, planting design to maximum carbon, site capture, other benefits
- Seedling production techniques suitable for large-scale but spatially and socially diverse estate
- Benefit sharing arrangements for community-based carbon projects
- Livelihoods to support communities until carbon benefits are realised
- Peoples Organisations experiences in implementing carbon projects
- Use of drones to plan and monitor reforestation and carbon stocks
- Biodiversity impacts



Pterocarpus seedling in jiffy pot – testing alternatives for seedling production



Workshop with PO members on benefit sharing arrangements



Peoples Organisation Symposium to discuss learning from project implementation

PhD students

114 applicants in Round 1 (2022), 125 applicants in Round 2 (2023)

6 scholarships have been allocated to date:

- Milad D. (Iran) - **Livelihood options to support reforestation**
- Tomiwa O. (Nigeria) – **Assisted Natural Regeneration**
- Felice C. (Philippines) - **Remote sensing**
- Jenny V. (Italy) - **Biodiversity conservation**
- Ngoc (Vietnam): **Livelihood opportunities**
- Lief (Philippines) – **Biodiversity**



Research teams in the Philippines have been trained during a recent visit and have commenced base-line socio-economic and biophysical data collection.

Impacts

- Within the Philippines
- Internationally



Australian Ambassador to the Philippines visiting Project Tarsier nursery



Thank you