Hurricane Julia - Nicaragua

On October 9th 2022 Hurricane Julia made landfall on the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua, approximately 80km from each of the three farms that comprise EcoPlanet Bamboo's approximate 3,500 hectares of bamboo restoration projects in the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region of Nicaragua . It then proceeded to sweep in land across Nicaragua resulting in both high winds and extreme rainfall for an extended period.

Once floodwaters had subsided EcoPlanet's project teams carried out initial assessments which showed that the most significant effects of hurricane Julia were within the extensive conservation areas on each of the three farms included in the project boundary. Such conservation areas total >1,000 hectares of remaining and protected primary rainforest, as well as a high number of standing trees within the reforested project areas.

The destruction within these conservation areas has been severe while the bamboo reforestation area has been most affected by the large volumes of debris that were dumped by the hurricane from such conservation areas into the adjacent bamboo plantings.

Of the bamboo reforestation areas, an area of approximately 2,000 hectares is registered under the Verified Carbon Standard as Project ID 1085, the Central American Reforestation Project. In April 2023 once full access was re-gained, EcoPlanet carried out an internal monitoring event on the PSPs that had most recently been monitored during the Q4 2020 verification event. It was found that there was no significant difference in these PSPs but that large areas of the project area were inaccessible due to the volumes of debris material.

Verra's requirements are that any loss event is reported within a 2 year period, with that date being October 10th 2025. At the same time, within the 2020 Non Permanence Risk Report, the potential effects hurricanes were quantified as transient, with full recover of any lost carbon stocks expected to occur within 10 years of any event.

Continuing to date, EcoPlanet has been working to remove this dead wood and free the bamboo clumps so that, as per the above assumption, the bamboo clumps have the chance to recover and, following the ecology of the native sympodial bamboo, put out new shoots to replace any material that has been lost.

As of October 2023 a company that has government authorization to utilize drones has been engaged, with a full aerial survey of the area to be carried out in early December, weather permitting. Updates will be published accordingly, while the field teams continue to navigate maintenance activities that will allow the full recovery and continued growth of the bamboo.