

## The Air Liquide Foundation contributes to three forest-related research projects

**Forests are able to capture CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere simply, efficiently and sustainably. Through its program aimed at supporting scientific research focused on protecting the environment, in particular that which contributes to preserving our planet's atmosphere, the Air Liquide Foundation is involved in three research projects whose goal is to preserve the forests of America, Asia and Oceania.**

**In Guiana**, the Air Liquide Foundation is supporting a scientific project focused on the tropical forest that covers 90% of this territory. The CNRS<sup>1</sup> and its partners, with the support of the European Regional Development Fund and the Guiana Region, are researching insecticides made from plants that grow in this forest. In fact, over the centuries these plants have developed ways of defending themselves against insects. The objective is thus to isolate and identify these naturally occurring molecules so they can be proposed as replacement solutions for the synthetic molecules that may be harmful to the environment. The Air Liquide Foundation financed the purchase of the materials being used to do the research on these biodegradable insecticides.

**In Indonesia**, the WWF<sup>2</sup> is setting up the first pilot site for the UN's new REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation) program in the Tesso Nilo national park in Sumatra. This project consists of evaluating the forest carbon stocks in order to measure the amount of carbon emissions avoided by putting an end to deforestation. The aim of this project is to make preservation of the forest economically viable by remunerating the country for refraining from practices that cause deforestation, in the form of financial assistance. As part of the project, the Air Liquide Foundation is supporting the development of a method for analyzing the calculation of the amount of carbon sequestration in the trees.

**In Vietnam**, the Air Liquide Foundation is supporting IRD<sup>3</sup> research focused on mangrove swamps, with the aim of developing an observatory for this ecosystem in several different types of climate regions around the globe: temperate (New Zealand), semi-arid (New Caledonia) and tropical humid (Vietnam). The mangrove swamp is a coastal forest whose role is vital in the carbon cycle due to its strong capacity to transform the CO<sub>2</sub> present in the atmosphere into organic matter and store it in the ground.

The provision of funding for these projects is in line with one of the three missions of the Air Liquide Foundation: **scientific research on protecting the environment, in particular that which contributes to preserving our planet's atmosphere.**

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<sup>1</sup> The *Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique* (National Center for Scientific Research) is a public organization operating under the auspices of the French Ministry of Education and Research.

<sup>2</sup> WWF-World Wide Fund for Nature

<sup>3</sup> The IRD (*Institut de Recherche pour le Développement*) is a French research organization.

## **The Air Liquide Foundation**

With a budget of 3 million euros over five years, the Air Liquide Foundation supports corporate philanthropy actions in three areas: scientific research for the preservation of the environment, scientific research for the improvement of the respiratory function and support for micro-initiatives for local development in the countries where the Group is present. Since it was founded in 2008, the Foundation has supported 168 projects in these three areas, located in 42 different countries.

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World leader in gases, technologies and services for Industry and Health, Air Liquide is present in 80 countries with more than 50,000 employees and serves more than 2 million customers and patients. Oxygen, nitrogen and hydrogen have been at the core of the company's activities since its creation in 1902. Air Liquide's ambition is to be the leader in its industry, delivering long-term performance and acting responsibly.

Air Liquide ideas create value over the long term. At the core of the company's development are the commitment and constant inventiveness of its people.

Air Liquide anticipates the challenges of its markets, invests locally and globally, and delivers high-quality solutions to its customers and patients, and the scientific community.

The company relies on competitiveness in its operations, targeted investments in growing markets and innovation to deliver profitable growth over the long-term.

Air Liquide's revenues amounted to € 15.2 billion in 2013, and its solutions that protect life and the environment represented around 40% of sales. Air Liquide is listed on the Paris Euronext stock exchange (compartment A) and is a member of the CAC 40 and Dow Jones Euro Stoxx 50 indexes.