



Carbon Bank and Village Development Project : Thailand

Trading high quality carbon credits while improving environmental conditions and increasing employment, revenue and CO₂ capture

Project description

Since 2005 the Carbon Bank and Village Development Project (VDP) has encouraged, supported and enhanced community-based indigenous forestry through carbon offsets. The initiative enables successful climate change adaptation, local socio-economic development, and biodiversity conservation in rural Thailand.



Business model

The project combines village development with market-based carbon trading. This provides self-financing biodiversity conservation and local economic improvement.

Trees planted in the project community forests generate carbon credits which are sold to local, national and international businesses and individuals. Revenues are used for further rural development and sustainable forestry.

Businesses and individuals increasingly purchase carbon credits to offset emissions. VDP's innovative product provides more value for today's demanding market.

Scaling up activities

Planned activities for the next 2 years:

- ❶ expand from 2 villages to 48 villages participating in the programme
- ❷ develop and implement community outreach programmes
- ❸ carry out an annual carbon audit
- ❹ develop and implement training programmes on nursery and forest management and horticulture/silviculture
- ❺ establish village banks
- ❻ prepare degraded communal/agricultural land for tree planting, plant and maintain trees
- ❼ carry out study tours and planting trips with interested people and volunteers in North East Thailand
- ❽ establish small-scale tree and herb nurseries in community schools.

Immediate needs

- ❶ Financial assistance so as to become self-sustaining after 3 years.

Individuals and businesses interested in offsetting their carbon emissions by purchasing carbon credits can do so at www.plant-a-tree-today.org/





SEED Awards 2009

for entrepreneurship in sustainable development

WINNER

Partnership

- ❶ **The Plant a Tree Today Foundation** (PATT) manages the overall initiative and promotes environmental and climate change awareness at community level.
- ❷ **The Population and Community Development Association** (PDA) manages the microfinance aspect of the project; and consults with the local communities.
- ❸ **The Forest Restoration Research Unit** (FORRU) provides technical advice; assists with forest restoration and management; and ensures a biologically diverse forest.



Social, environmental and economic impacts

Social impact: The initiative supports community-based indigenous forestry, increases forestry capacity and provides local education about climate change. It also establishes or strengthens village development committees and village youth councils, empowering women and youth in the tree planting and maintenance process.

Environmental impact: The project has significant environmental impacts as it increases indigenous forest cover; restores degraded land in rural communities;

sequesters CO₂ through locally-owned and protected carbon sinks; improves environmental conditions such as soil water retention; and improves climate change adaptability potential.

Economic impact: The 48 village projects that will be established over the next two years will establish sustainable financial mechanisms for carbon credit payments which in turn will provide funds to implement community-wide infrastructure improvements and support village micro-credit saving and loan schemes.

Contact

Dr. Dan Rollinson
Email: dan.rollinson@plant-a-tree-today.org
www.plant-a-tree-today.org

SEED Partners

SEED is hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Other current partners are the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature); and the governments of Germany, India, the Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.



About the SEED Initiative

The SEED Initiative identifies and supports promising small scale social and environmental entrepreneurs around the globe, entrepreneurs that while working towards a greener economy also tackle poverty, marginalisation and social exclusion.

SEED provides these social entrepreneurs with know how and networks, taking the lessons learnt at local level up to decision-makers to promote evidence-based policy making.

More information: www.seedinit.org

SEED Secretariat

info@seedinit.org