Trees for Global Benefits

A Cooperative Rural Community Carbon Offsetting Scheme

Based on the Plan Vivo System

Implemented by ECOTRUST
In partnership with rural communities in Uganda

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Chairperson Bitereko Women’s Group
How It Started

- Introduced in 2003 through community groups
- Objectives of Environmental Conservation & Improved Livelihoods
- Identified Tree Planting as a livelihood & Environmental Need
- Ecotrust Introduced the Community Groups to Carbon as a Financing Mechanism
How it Started

- 33 farmers - 5 from Bitereko
- Other people initially not convinced to join
- Due to some misconceptions
- Currently the programme has more than 700 households with 316 from Bitereko
- Expanded to several districts e.g Hoima, Masindi, Elgon landscape, Rubirizi & Kasese
General Benefits

Carbon income

- Supports diversification of income sources
  - Livestock
  - Apiary
  - Fruit production
  - Coffee

- Medicinal Extracts
- School fees
- Improved Housing
- Add value to land
- Timber (in future)
- Pension
Other Socio-economic Benefits

- Social Capital
  - Building Capacity for the CBO from a simple social group to a legally registered organisation
  - Strengthened the leadership of the CBO (Bitereko Carbon Community Group)
  - Build capacity of members in agro-forestry practices

- Constructed a school

- Set an example for other community members

- Supporting the village banks
  - All carbon farmers buy shares
  - Payments provide a continued flow of funds
  - Access to credit
Environmental Benefits

- Reduced illegal activities in protected areas
- Soil conservation
  - Mulching
  - Soil stabilisation
  - Moisture retention
- Growing of threatened native tree species contributing to their conservation
- Improved watershed management
Measures of Ensuring that Carbon is Delivered

- Every farmer must have their own objective for planting trees e.g. timber, fruits, medicine etc.
- All family members must be involved in the project
- Proportional Payments based on performance
- Training all carbon farmers in the management of trees
- Risk Buffer of 10% deposited to Ecotrust account
Support us by buying more credits

Thank you!

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