



Connecting Communities,
Conservation and Markets

Our Services



The Katoomba Ecosystem Services Incubator is an initiative of Forest Trends providing comprehensive support to bring promising ecosystem services projects to market, as a platform for delivering local benefits, inform policy and build capacity.

The Incubator draws on its staff and the broad Katoomba network of partners to bring together support teams that embody leading-edge capacity tailored to specific project needs. Early stage Incubator investments support strong local implementation partners, adding carbon and other ecosystem service expertise to their existing experience and capabilities in conservation, rural development and business.

The Incubator typically supports project partners through the design process to the point of validation and investor engagement.

Where We Work

The Incubator focuses on key geographies with the aim of developing a critical mass of project experience and local capacity. Forest Trends launched the Incubator in late 2007, in partnership with EcoDecisión, and an initial focus on Latin America. Current priority regions include the Andes, Brazil, West Africa, and East Africa.

Projects are under development in Brazil, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Ghana, Liberia, Tanzania, and Uganda.



The Incubator works with key regional partners or “Centers of Excellence” with the aim of reinforcing capacity in region to support projects and ecosystem markets.

Regional hubs for the Incubator include East Africa (Kampala), West Africa (with Nature Conservation Resource Centre, Ghana), Brazil (with Instituto de Conservação e Desenvolvimento Sustentável do Amazonas - IDESAM) and in the Andean region (with EcoDecisión, Ecuador).



Our Mission

The Incubator focuses primarily on communities and small to medium landowners, a sector that plays a critical role in providing ecosystem services but faces particular barriers and challenges to finance.

Incubator support to projects focuses on addressing critical issues or constraints affecting a broad segment of market opportunities. By developing successful working examples and generating tools, the Incubator aims to build capacity and materially expand the scope of market activity.

Current priorities include

- REDD and indigenous peoples,
- Aggregation mechanisms for small and medium-producers
- Community management and benefit-sharing for protected areas

