Trees for Global Benefits

Linking Small Scale Landholder Farmers to the Global Carbon Market

Based on the Plan Vivo System

Implemented by ECOTRUST
About Ecotrust

- Established in 1999 with a goal to provide sustained funding for conservation
  - Grants Management
  - Payment for Environmental Services
  - Land Trust Programme
  - Corporate Social Corporate Responsibility
Trees for Global Benefits

- Cooperative Offsetting scheme
- Based on the Plan Vivo system – A voluntary carbon standard issuing Ex-ante Certificates ethically and fairly traded

Targeting small scale landholding farmers

- Improved land-management activities that can generate quantifiable climate services, and benefit the livelihoods of participants and local ecosystems.

- Currently operational in Western Highlands Agro-ecological zone of Uganda (coffee, banana, cotton, beans, passion fruit, coffee arabica, spices, vanilla)

- Over 2,500 farming households accessed the carbon market
Whole Landscape Approach

Rwenzori Mountains
Rwenzori Mountains
Watershed services
Farming Landscape in the Albertine Rift Valley
Wooded Savannah
Whole Community Approach

- Multiple participants and multiple project interventions, depending on the needs and priorities of the communities involved
  - Activities are designed with the full participation of local communities
  - Technical specifications are designed to respond to the needs and aspirations of the community
  - Project aggregates credits generated across multiple landholdings and sold as a cooperative scheme

- **Socio-economic Assessment**
  - Identification of environmental & livelihood needs as well as possible strategies to address them
  - Examining the socio-economic aspects of a community-led tree planting programme

- **Multiple approaches to mobilising participants**
  - Collaborative Forest Management groups
  - Women groups
  - Commodity groups
Whole Household Approach

- Consultations are conducted with the whole family
- Any member of the household can apply on behalf of the household
- Other family members are required to endorse the application
- Integration of tree planting as a livelihood strategy
- Each household is supported to design its own land use plan
- Each household defines its own management objective
Timber production
Fruit production
Fodder for domestic animals
Avocado leaves for mulch
Honey Production
Commercial tree nurseries
Equitable Benefit Sharing

- Credits belong to the producers,
- Performance – based payments
- Sale of credits does not mean transfer of title to land or trees
- Price is designed to ensure sustainability
- Value addition
- Contribution to community development

Example price: $6 / tCO2

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<tr>
<th>Certification</th>
<th>$0.30</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Verification &amp; international support</td>
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<td>Local technical assistance, admin’ &amp; monitoring</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staged payment to communities/ producers</td>
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Challenges

- Location
  - Accessibility – very steep terrain, no proper road network, very difficult to reach
  - Access to markets
  - Financial Services – banks are very far from the farmers and most farmers do not have the requirements to open & maintain accounts
    - cooperatives & saving societies
    - Supporting the capitalisation of village banks
    - Supporting Access to Credit using future payments as collateral
- Social Complexities (Land Tenure, Attitudes towards women participation in meetings etc.)
- Operational Costs