

## Bazaar of Ideas

**“Applying the Green Growth approach for basic service delivery and poverty reduction”**

**Committee on Environment and Development**  
first session, Bangkok, 2 – 4 December 2009

**Name:** Carbon Bank and Village Development Project

**Conserving:** Biodiversity, Forests

**Sector:** Forestry

**Presented by:** Plant a Tree Today Foundation

**Championed by:** Embassy of USA to Thailand

**Location:** Thailand

**Year of introduction:** 2007



**Concept:** The Carbon Bank and Village Development Project is an initiative that encourages, supports, and enhances community-based indigenous forestry through carbon credit trading to enable successful climate change adaptation and socio-economic development for local communities and biodiversity conservation in rural Thailand. The project aims to positively impact 48 villages in rural Thailand. Each village will establishment a community forest, in return for this each village gains access to income generating loans via a micro-finance system Unlike many micro-finance systems, the revenue generated from the bank is directed back to the community to allow infrastructure development within the village. At all stages of the project we ensure the local community is involved with all decision making. For example a village committee is set up to manage the bank, environmental activities. There is equal gender representation in these committees. Youth are also represented in the process and youth committees ensure the thoughts of young people are incorporated into any decision making.

**Other information:** This project eestablishes an sustainable financial mechanisms for payment for carbon credits resulting from community-based forestry programmes, together with the supporting village micro-credit loan and saving schemes. Ultimately, there is an increase of indigenous forest cover through the restoration of degraded land in rural communities and a reduction of the impact of climate change through the sequestration of CO<sub>2</sub> with the establishment of a locally-owned and protected carbon sink.

**Associated costs and benefits:**

1. Adaptation to climate change via improved infrastructure and improved environmental conditions such as soil retention because of increased vegetation cover.
2. Creation of additional revenue generating products and food sources through non-timber forest products (NTFPs) within the forest established as part of the VDP.
3. Creation of employment opportunities within the community, to work on the forest establishment and also through businesses initiated through the microfinance system within the VDP.
4. This innovative approach to tackling social problems and environmental issues is strengthened financially by the addition of saleable carbon credits that are produced as a result of the project. This emerging revenue source will allow further investment to flow back into the communities and will ultimately lead to financial sustainability.
5. Focuses attention on two groups most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change: the poor and women.

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