

Protection of Forests & Biodiversity, Clean Cooking

Description

The Forest Protection/Biodiversity and Clean Cooking Commission is a platform that brings together local African and international expertise in forest ecosystem management, ecosystem services assessment and sustainable ecological technology. In its integrated approach, it evaluates a cross-cutting approach to environmental issues of biodiversity with a focus on the preventive nature that these renewable resources and services can have in addressing the effects of climate change.

Carbon offsetting is an important indicator in the implementation of sustainable development projects and the benefits they could have in mitigating carbon emissions, for example: conservation of forests, monitoring of environmental performance indices, alternative business models and implementation of policies for the protection and safeguarding of forest ecosystem services that communities benefit from forests.

The mission of this commission is to identify projects with a high carbon dioxide storage capacity (reforestation, safeguarding of natural and semi-natural landscapes), the search for alternatives to environmentally destructive practices (logging, monoculture, bushfires) through sustainable methods and technologies (solar energy, biogas, briquettes, biodiversity-friendly reforestation, resource efficient cooking).

These projects will be used to identify indicators for such innovative approaches of managing forests in order to secure a sustainable provision of forest ecosystem services for local communities and MSME. This requires an equal participation of diverse actors, including forest owners, companies, local/regional governments and local communities to develop solutions that are commonly accepted.

The commission aims to put in place a framework for evaluating the communities' ecosystem services derived from their natural environments through GATo network development projects. Several indicators will be taken into account and will serve as monitoring tools to estimate the amount of CO₂ offset as well as the alternative ecological technologies derived from the projects carried out. The final goal will be to monitor the evolution of the indicators and to be able to finance the voluntary carbon offset projects.

Abstracts should address any of the following issues that are pertinent to the development of standards and indicators for an African based CO₂ compensation integral scheme. We invite contributions in the following topics:

- Development and promotion of resource efficient cooking (technology, fuels, techniques)
- Promotion of innovative business approaches for local companies and forest owners
 - New entrepreneurial models for forestry and clean fuels
 - Compensation schemes and network approaches
- Community capacity building in forestry management
 - Gender issues in promotion of biodiversity and clean fuels
 - Improving local delivery of forest ecosystem services and sustainable forestry management
- Governance solutions/innovations for a sustainable provision of forest ecosystem services:

- Policy and institutional frameworks for promoting biodiversity and clean fuels
- Identification of standards, criteria and indicators in the frame of CO2 compensation projects

Scientific committee of this thematic area

- Dr. Frederick Kakembo (Ndejje University, Uganda)
- UASZ Joseph Dieme, (UASZ, Senegal)
- Henri Charles AKAGOU ZEDONG (MINFOF, Camerun)
- Dr Boubacar Camara (UASZ, Senegal)
- Omar Dieme (FORET INTERNATIONALE/ISE, Senegal)
- Mr Musinghi Cajo Francis (Ndejje University, Uganda)
- Albert Sinsin
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