

## **Social Carbon - Validating and certifying the sustainable development generated by a Carbon Emissions Reduction Project**

Since the publication “State of the Voluntary Carbon Markets 2007: Picking Up Steam” in July, the demand for Social Carbon VERs has increased dramatically, as well as the requests for more information regarding the Social Carbon methodology and its application to the Carbon Market. As a result of this increase in demand and the desire for further information, we are writing this report, to explain in greater detail how the Social Carbon Methodology works.

Designed by the Instituto Ecológica during the development of carbon sequestration projects in northern Brazil, the Social Carbon methodology was created to ensure the transferring of social and economic benefits to the stakeholders involved in carbon emissions reduction projects. The Social Carbon approach has been monitored, evaluated and adjusted over the past Ten years. During this period, a series of socio-environmental and poverty reduction projects have been designed and implemented involving local communities, with a view to create a standard participatory approach to emissions-reduction that could also reduce poverty and contribute for sustainable development .

The concept is not restricted to forestry projects; it has been used in renewable energy schemes, fuel switches, and landfill projects to name a few. Ecológica is constantly creating indicators to apply to different projects that are being developed in Latin America (including more than forty projects in Brazil), and Europe, with a great demand for existing project scopes to be developed in Africa and Asia. There are projects under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and projects under the Voluntary Carbon Market where Social Carbon methodology is adding value to sustainable development and consequently generating emission reductions from multiple projects. The methodology has already been used on projects from small industries, utility companies, and the ceramics industry, to monitor their commitment to CDM and the voluntary market and reinforcing sustainable development.

It is expected, in the long run, that the methodology will help to assure the maximum social and environmental benefits, reducing risks associated with CDM projects. In relation to the Voluntary Market, the Social Carbon Methodology appears to be the best option to assure that the entrepreneur is committed to sustainable development, giving value to emission reductions, and promoting security for all parties involved and providing some necessary transparency to this voluntary market.

The Ecologica team is working to finalize a “Social Carbon Guidelines Application Book”, and has already signed a contract to create the Social Carbon Registry System with Logica GMC.

The Social Carbon concept and its applications will be described in weekly articles in the Climate L. For further information please visit the Instituto Ecológica website: [www.ecologica.org.br](http://www.ecologica.org.br) or contact Maria Fernanda Gebara: [mariafernanda@ecologica.ws](mailto:mariafernanda@ecologica.ws) .