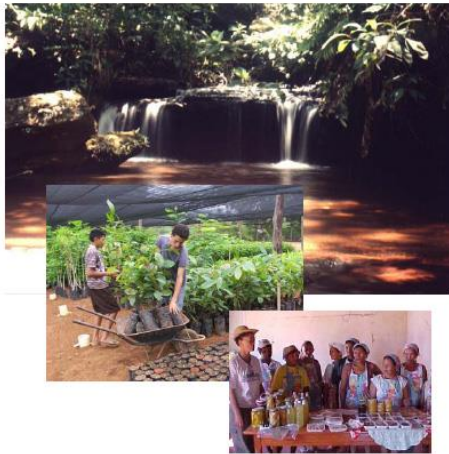


Resume Carmo Hill Project – Ecológica Institute



Sponsor: Medway Power, Kent, UK

Location: Brazil, Central Tocantins – Lajeado range – Carmo Hill area, 30 km south-east of Palmas - Municipalities of Taquarussu, and Aparecida do Rio Negro

Period: 2000-2002

Description of the Project: The objective this Project is deliver long-term carbon sequestration benefits to offset emissions of greenhouse gases; Demonstrate alternatives for improving living standards of local communities in the CarmoHill region; Organic agriculture and ecotourism to cover project maintenance costs.

The project was approved by Medway Power Ltd. in May 1999, with the purpose to absorb carbon dioxin from atmosphere through the maintenance of endangered natural vegetation and improve carbon absorption through reforestation. The project beneficiaries are, in an indirectly way, little agriculturist, teachers from Taquaruçu district and inhabitants of Carmo Hill.

A Private Nature Reserve was set up to conserve 240 ha of Cerrado (Brazilian savannah) with extensive gallery forest formations, in addition to the project's organic farm property – Ecológica's Farm (250 ha).

The cost of project operations over the long term is met by organic fruit and agricultural production supplemented by income from ecotourism and conferences at the Carmo Hill Visitors Centre. The Centre is also used as the basis for environmental education activities targeting schools and communities in the surrounding area, especially in the Taquarussu municipality. As well as raising environmental awareness, these educational campaigns will promote agro forestry and the use of locally available species for handicraft production and improved nutritional content.

A small nursery has been established at the Ecológica's Farm to support the farm's operations, reforestation and agro forestry schemes in the surrounding area. Initially, however, most of the saplings distributed to local communities will come from the Institute's other nurseries.

The Ecológica's Institute research program is expanding to include work in the Carmo Hill region to document the biodiversity of the area and evaluate the project's carbon sequestration performance.

Main Achievements: Acquisition of two properties in Carmo Hill region; Establishment of Aparecida Private Nature Reserve on property covering 230 ha; Certification of second property - Fazenda Ecológica (250 ha) – for organic production; Setting up sapling nursery using organic seed stock collected from the two properties; The activities to enforcement of the forestry and the implementation of joined cultivations, producing guava, lemon, passion fruit and banana; Organic agricultural production on 5 ha at the Fazenda Ecológica; Construction of irrigation dam completed, and irrigation systems fully functional; Ecotourism training course for rural residents; Training for rural communities and local organizations in implementation of agro forestry systems; Environmental education in schools in the project area and Palmas; Construction of Visitors Centre and ecotourism facilities; Dissemination of organic production techniques at events organized in partnership with local institutions; Forest regeneration and restocking in areas of the Fazenda Ecológica property; Management plan completed for the conservation areas; Long term sustainability achieved; Survey for bird watching potential completed; Research in Cerrado Ecosystem in partnership with University of Brasília (UNB).