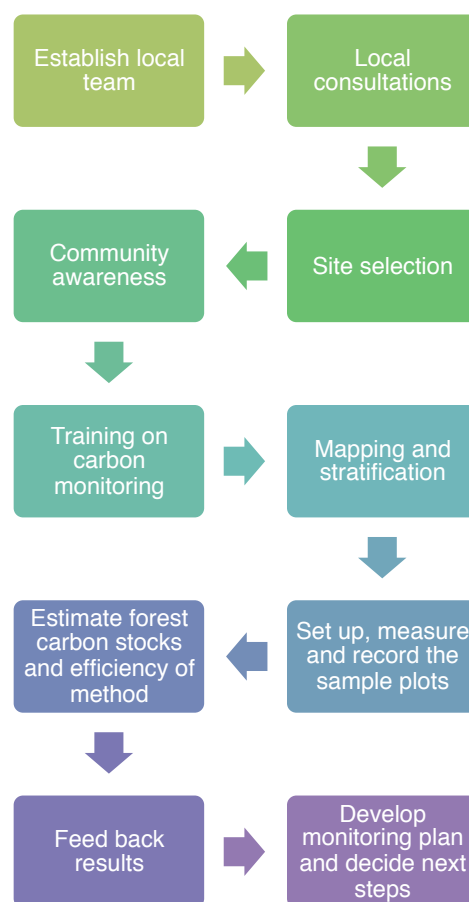


**EBLU2010-03NMY(R)-SCHEYVENS**

# Participatory Approaches to Forest Carbon Accounting to Mitigate Climate Change, Conserve Biodiversity and Promote Sustainable Development

The destruction of forests contributes to global climate change by releasing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and by reducing the capacity of forests to sequester carbon dioxide. A global mechanism known as REDD+ is being developed under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to provide incentives to developing countries to implement activities that protect and enhance their forest carbon stocks. Accurate monitoring of forest carbon is required to assess the contribution of REDD+ activities to global climate change mitigation. Through a process of action research (Figure 1), this Project sets out to elaborate approaches to engage local communities in estimating carbon stock changes in their forests by establishing and measuring permanent sample plots. The Project is based on the premise that community engagement in forest carbon monitoring can increase local understanding of, and commitment to, REDD+ activities without compromising scientific rigour, and promote the implementation of the REDD+ social and environmental safeguards that have been agreed by Parties to the UNFCCC.

In 2011, a project advisory/planning committee and web platform: [http://www.iges.or.jp/en/fc/activity\\_cca.html](http://www.iges.or.jp/en/fc/activity_cca.html) were established, and action research activities were conducted at sites in Cambodia, Indonesia, and Lao PDR. In Cambodia, IGES, RECOFTC—The Centre for Forests and People, the Wildlife Conservation Society, and the Forestry Administration trained groups from three villages in the buffer zone of Seima Protection Forest, Mondul Kiri Province, to estimate forest carbon stocks. Sample plots were established and measured in natural deciduous and evergreen forest, land use and land cover classification using satellite imagery and aerial photos was undertaken, and biomass sampling was conducted to provide more accurate carbon stock estimates.



**Figure 1. Participatory forest carbon assessment action research flow**



**Figure 2.** Farmers measuring tree diameter to estimate carbon stocks, Java, Indonesia



**Figure 3.** Villagers being trained on tree height measurement, Mondul Kiri, Cambodia

In Java, Indonesia, IGES, the National Forestry Council, and ARuPA secured the support of local governments for the action research, and provided training to farmers in three villages (Semoyo, Burat, Terong), who then went on to establish and measure sample plots in their planted woodlots. Experiences were shared at a district workshop. It is clear that local enthusiasm for village-level carbon accounting is building. One of the villages is developing a module on climate change, REDD+ and participatory accounting which it plans to introduce to other villages using radio. In Lao PDR, the Faculty of Forestry, National University of Laos, ran a workshop on participatory carbon monitoring, made preparations for village baseline surveys and, through consultations with local government, decided to launch action research in the Sangthong District.

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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Participatory Approaches to Forest Carbon Accounting to Mitigate Climate Change, Conserve Biodiversity, and Promote Sustainable Development

**COUNTRIES INVOLVED**  
 Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR

**PROJECT DURATION**  
 3 years

**APN FUNDING**  
 US\$ 120,000

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