

COURSE REPORT

An Introduction to Payments for Ecosystem Services for Community Leaders

**Training Center for Forest Peoples – Acre
(Centro de Formação dos Povos da Floresta – Acre)
Rio Branco, Brazil (state of Acre)
August 16-20, 2009**

A course jointly organized by:
The Environmental Leadership & Training Initiative (ELTI)
Forest Trends

Course sponsors:
Arcadia Fund
The Moore Foundation
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Background: Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) initiatives are emerging throughout the Neotropics as a promising market-based approach to conserve natural resources and biodiversity while at the same time improve the livelihoods of local communities. As forest-based carbon credit initiatives, such as carbon sequestration and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD), gain international attention as potentially powerful mechanisms to promote conservation and avoid deforestation, it is important that local communities have accurate information about these strategies so that they can make informed decisions about their participation in these emerging markets. The Environmental Leadership and Training Initiative (ELTI), therefore, joined forces with Forest Trends to develop a series of capacity-building courses on PES for community leaders and organizations.



This first course in the series took place in Rio Branco, Brazil, which is the capital city for the state of Acre located in the western Brazilian Amazon. This site was selected for the course since it is part of a global biodiversity hotspot encompassing Madre de Dios, Peru, Acre, Brazil, and Pando, Bolivia, known by the acronym MAP (**M**adre de Dios-**A**cre-**P**ando). While the MAP region contains some of the most biologically diverse rainforests in the world and is inhabited by thousands of indigenous and other traditional forest communities, deforestation rates in the region are rising rapidly due to illegal logging, the expansion of the agricultural frontier, and infrastructure development, including the construction of a transoceanic highway linking the MAP region to ports in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans and urban markets throughout South America. Given these trends, many local communities in the region are looking for innovative ways to protect forest resources and PES program might be one of many potential alternatives.



Course objectives: The following were the four primary objectives of the course:

1. Inform and better equip community-based organizations and technical staff from local NGOs to respond to REDD and other PES related opportunities, as well as to formulate and implement their own PES strategies;
2. Train community-based organizations, as well as technical staff from local NGOs, on the basic steps to develop credible baselines and deliver Project Design Documents (PDD) for REDD and carbon sequestration projects;
3. Enhance the ability of community-based organizations to influence REDD and other PES policies affecting their interests, such as safeguarding and strengthening land tenure rights;
4. Encourage a shift towards a sustainable economy in the MAP region by providing community leaders with information about PES to help them make informed decisions about participating in these initiatives.

Course format: This course took place over a four-day period and included formal presentations, discussion sessions, a field-based exercise, and a short project development clinic. Each formal presentation was followed by a question and answer session, and the final session of the course was an open discussion session among participants and instructors so that participants could share their impressions of the course and ask any remaining questions about the materials presented. Almost all presentations were delivered in Portuguese and simultaneous translation was provided for those that were given in Spanish.

Course agenda: The course was divided into the following 11 principle modules over four days:

Day 1

- **Module 1:** Climate Change and Forests – An Introduction to Climate Negotiations and the Importance of PES
- **Module 2:** An Introduction to Ecosystem Services
- **Module 3:** Ecosystem Services in the State of Acre

Day 2

- **Module 4:** Field Exercise – Measuring Carbon Stocks
- **Module 5:** Payment and Compensation for Ecosystem Services
- **Module 6:** Carbon Markets and Opportunities for Local Communities

Day 3

- **Module 7:** The REDD Plan for the State of Acre, Brazil
- **Module 8:** Integrating with the MAP Region
- **Module 9:** How to Develop and Implement PES or Carbon Projects

Day 4

- **Module 10:** Case Studies on PES
- **Module 11:** Developing Individual Proposals for PES projects



PDF versions of the module presentations are available at: www.katoombagroup.org/event_details.php?id=33

Participants: Forty-three participants attended the course, 36 of whom were from Brazil, four of whom were from Peru, and three of whom were from Bolivia. While the majority of participants came from Brazil since the course was conducted in Portuguese, a select group of participants from the other areas comprising the MAP region (Madre de Dios, Peru, and Pando, Bolivia) also attended the course to incorporate experiences from these regions. Most course participants were community leaders from the state of Acre, although approximately 15 participants also were from local NGOs that work with communities in the region on conservation or development issues, including World Wildlife Fund-Brazil (WWF), ACS-Amazônia, SOS Amazônia, and Grupo de Trabalho Amazônico (GTA-Acre). Participants from local NGOs were invited to attend the course for two primary reasons (1) they have a history of working with the community leaders attending the course, and, therefore, could assist with the transfer of the information presented during the modules to participants; and (2) they could assist community leaders with the application of the course information once the course was over, if requested. Three observers also attended the course, including an in-country representative from USAID.

Coordinators and instructors: The workshop was co-coordinated by Dr. Eva Garen and Carla Chizmar from (ELTI), by Beto Borges and Rebecca Vonada (from Forest Trends), and by Marcio Halla (from Ecotoré). Beto Borges and Marcio Halla jointly facilitated the course and Laura Soriano (Associação Sócio-cultural Yawanawa) assisted with in-country logistics. Flavia Olveira Stoike, ELTI's intern for this course, also assisted with the coordination and implementation of the event and Cecilia Viana, ELTI's intern for the Mata Atlântica region of Brazil, also attended the event and assisted with the implementation of the course.

There were 11 instructors who participated in the course representing a number of local and international organizations working on PES initiatives, including the Woods Hole Research Center (WHRC), the Katoomba Group, the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), the Amazon Working Group (Grupo de Trabalho Amazônico – GTA), the Institute of Management and Certification of Forests and Agriculture (Instituto de Manejo e Certificação Florestal e Agrícola - IMAFLORA), and the Institute for Conservation and Sustainable Development of Amazonas (Instituto de Conservação e Desenvolvimento Sustentável do Amazonas - IDESAM). Two of the course instructors also came from local government institutions, one from the State Environmental Secretary of Acre (Secretaria de Estado do Meio Ambiente do Acre – SEMAC) and the other from the Institute for Environmental Research in the Amazon (Instituto de Pesquisa Ambiental da Amazônia – IPAM).



Course materials: The following four publications were distributed to course participants:

- ***Além do Carbono: Mercados de Água e Biodiversidade/Beyond Carbon: Water and Biodiversity Markets***, published by the Katoomba Group's Ecosystem Marketplace;
- ***Pagamentos por Serviços Ambientais: Um Manual Sobre Como Iniciar/Payments for Environmental Services: A Beginners Manual***, published by the Katoomba Group; and
- ***Aprendendo sobre Serviços Ambientais/Learning about Environmental Services***, which was prepared

for Forest Trends by Dr. Marina Campos especially for this course and will be used in future community-based PES training events.

- ***Guia para Determinação de Carbono em Pequenas Propriedades Rurais/Guide to Carbon Measurement in Small-Scale Rural Properties***, published by ICRAF (World Agroforestry Centre)

Course location and dates: The course took place from August 16-20, 2009, at the Training Center for Forest Peoples – Acre (Centro de Formação dos Povos da Floresta – Acre), located in Rio Branco, Brazil (state of Acre).

Follow-up: ELTI's director, Javier Mateo-Vega, introduced participants to ELTI's Leadership Program (LP) and collected the profiles of many of the course participants for the coordinator of the LP, Alicia Calle. Alicia currently is contacting course participants to identify potential follow-up opportunities with the LP. In addition, Marcela Quintero from the Katoomba Ecosystem Services Incubator, which provides technical, financial, business management and marketing assistance to selected projects, is reviewing the project profiles that participants developed during the course as potential candidates for the Katoomba Incubator.



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