



IAS 2011 Carbon Offset Programme – Selected Projects

At the 6th HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention Conference, the International AIDS Society offered delegates the opportunity to offset the carbon emission by ticking a box on the registration form.

Thanks to the generous donations of IAS 2011 conference delegates and the IAS' social responsibility initiative which consists of offsetting all IAS 2011 staff flights, the IAS has been able to support three different projects and organizations together providing environmental, social and economic benefits.

South Africa: Cape Town women's cooperatives – Township Patterns

In partnership with independent cooperatives in Cape Town townships, Township Patterns designs, produces and markets a range of eco-friendly products. The main objective is the empowerment of women in the Cape Town suburbs and the development of autonomous business. The IAS has supported Township Patterns in the past and continues to do so also this year.



“A big thank you to IAS for the support they have provided to our organization. Their donation has had a huge positive impact on the development of the Saambou co-operative. This independent sewing co-op is fully owned by a group of 8 women from previously disadvantaged backgrounds. Thanks to IAS, they have received further specialized training. The group has shown huge potential in moving on to sewing for the fashion industry. Any additional funds would go towards offering other co-operatives the same professional training as seamstresses for clothing items: this would increase their prospective enormously.”

India: construction of biogas digesters and vermicompost project

Most rural Indian families depend on wood and kerosene to meet their energy needs. Women and children are responsible for collecting wood several times a week, contributing to the depletion of timber resources. The use of traditional cooking stoves also causes respiratory problems and eye infections among users. Finally, the use of traditional chemical fertilizers reduces soil fertility and crop yields.

The manufacture and distribution of biogas tanks and production of vermicompost provides real solutions to these problems.

Environmental benefits:

- * Reducing the pressure on forests and fossil fuels
- * Reducing emissions of greenhouse gases (CO₂, CH₄)
- * Improving the quality of soil organic matter enriched by vermicompost

Social benefits:

- * Reduction of poverty (lower costs related to energy and fertilizer)
- * Improved access to energy, saving time for beneficiaries
- * Decreased air pollution inside the houses (respiratory and eye infections)





LEGAMBIENTE LAZIO

Italy: Festa dell'albero planting initiative - Legambiente

Festa dell'albero is the initiative of Legambiente by which every year thousand of new plants are planted to make degraded urban areas better and to embellish parks and public gardens. The trees have the special function to absorb carbon dioxide (CO₂), one of the most dangerous greenhouse gas, and to release oxygen by the process with the sunlight photosynthesis. It's arrived to 7th edition and this year it 'll be celebrated between Saturday 19th and Monday 21st November and for the International Year of Forests, it will be dedicated to the monumental trees, precious treasure and often not reproducible for botanic rarity or naturalistic preciousness, historical evidences that we have to protect. Moreover this year the celebration is named after Wangari Maathai, Kenyan biologist who died last 25th September: she was the founder of "Green Belt Movement" that since 1977 had planted more than 45 millions of trees in the African nation.

