

Tropical America Katoomba Ecosystem Services Incubator

The Katoomba Ecosystem Services Incubator has had some exciting developments in the past three months:

Ongoing support to selected projects: The Incubator has continued to support four pilot projects in its portfolio by providing strategic and technical advice and supporting development of project design documents, data collection (e.g. forest inventories, land-use, land-cover) and legal counsel. These are projects in Mexico, Ecuador, Brazil and Honduras. The Incubator continues to develop its portfolio by extending technical assistance to projects that are in preliminary stages of development. Assistance has contributed to design of incentive payment mechanisms, scoping possibilities for projects to integrate carbon with other PES schemes, and strengthening carbon monitoring and methodologies. At the *Designing REDD activities to mitigate climate change* workshop at the end of October at CATIE in Costa Rica, the Incubator led a project clinic to provide individualized support to projects over the course of one day. Additional information and presentations will soon be posted on <http://www.katoombagroup.org/~katoomba/events.php>.

Expansion to Africa: At the recent Global Katoomba meeting in Tanzania (see http://www.katoombagroup.org/~katoomba/event_details.php?id=18) the Incubator met with African colleagues to identify areas of collaboration for positioning the Incubator in Africa. The Incubator was recently launched in Uganda, in collaboration with the Uganda Carbon Bureau. At the Global Katoomba meeting, response to the Incubator was very positive, and several countries requested that the Incubator extend service to their regions. As the Incubator expands to Africa in the coming year, it will draw on the experiences that the Latin America Incubator has had in its first year.

World Bank's Global Development Marketplace 2008: Carina Bracer of the Tropical America Katoomba Group gave a presentation on the Incubator at the World Bank's Global Development Marketplace, held in Washington DC in September. Her presentation discussed the Incubator's activities and experiences to date, methodology, and lessons learned. Stuart White provided a perspective from an Incubator-supported project managed by Fundación Cordillera Tropical in Ecuador, and Guilherme Prado Valladares gave a presentation on an Incubator reforestation project within the Surui indigenous territory in the Brazilian Amazon. In other Incubator news, Grupo Ecológico Sierra Gorda was selected as one of 22 winners of the Development Marketplace competition. The project, which is part of the Incubator's first round of pilot projects, is a payment scheme for a "gourmet" menu of integrated environmental services generated from cattle operations in Mexico.