

Organizers/initiators of partnerships and initiatives are invited to fill in the table below and submit it to the WSSD Secretariat at:

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Name of the Partnership/Initiative

International Center for Carbon Sequestration and Biomass Energy (ICCS)

Expected date of initiation: April 2002

Expected date of completion: December 2004

Partners Involved:

Intergovernmental organizations: UNEP, ADIE, World Bank Prototype Carbon Fund/BioCarbon Fund

Major groups: Swiss Reinsurance, STMicroelectronics, TotalFinaElf, Agence Française de Développement, Caisse des Dépôts, , Prolea, Sofiproteol, IFP, GEP

Other: Agence Française de Développement, CCX, Office National des Forêts (France)

Universities: CEPEA-ESACQ, University of San Paulo, University Federal of Mato Grosso, University College London, University of Versailles

Leading Partner:

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Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative

The International Center for Carbon Sequestration is aiming at promoting the development of carbon sequestration and associated biomass energy being at the same time a center for:

- **Gathering existing reliable information** on carbon bio-sequestration through the constitution of a platform and training programs;
- **Increasing the knowledge** on carbon bio-sequestration by facilitating the funding of pilot projects as well as R&D activities;
- **Optimizing Biodiversity conservation benefits** by stopping deforestation and regenerating degraded areas (especially developing synergies between Biodiversity and Climate Change Conventions);
- **Contributing to the establishment and dissemination of the Norms and Standards** and promoting best practices;

The ICCS will be specifically dedicated to carbon sequestration through biological processes. Moreover it will mainly focus on sequestration in terrestrial ecosystems. The biomass energy technologies will also be covered by the ICCS since they are closely linked to biological carbon sequestration and have a substantial impact on climate change alleviation through reduction of

GHG emissions. It is expected that other types of carbon sequestration processes -such as physical, coastal, chemical ...- be covered through relevant partnerships.

More specifically, the ICCS will constitute a platform where interested parties will find the overall information on R&D, pilot projects, best practices, and financial and economic aspects, including risk assessment. A special emphasis will be put on meeting the needs of developing countries, particularly African ones.

The emergence of climate change represents one of the major environmental risks to the Planet. Limiting this risk is a key challenge for sustainable development. This effort is closely linked to the conservation of biodiversity and the prevention of desertification. It is involving developed as well as developing countries; the latter will require a special attention as they are likely to suffer from great vulnerability when faced with climate changes and extreme climatic events.

The promoters of the Framework Convention on Climate Change have clearly identified the two means that must be combined to fight against this risk, i.e. reducing greenhouse gases (GHGs) emissions and simultaneously extracting excess carbon from the atmosphere by sequestering it in the biosphere or by directly injecting GHGs in deep geological strata.

Many carbon sequestration initiatives, both public and private, are being implemented with the involvement of a wide spectrum of solutions. They nonetheless suffer from being scattered, difficult to access, and uneven in terms of quality. Overall access to proper scientific and technical information is also difficult and there is a lack of clear norms for carbon assets certification and verification. New R&D studies as well as pilot projects are proliferating World-Wide; but there is no common platform where information relating to these activities can be gathered, organized and made accessible to interested parties including financial sources to support new pilot projects.

To solve this problem, Pro-Natura International and Eco-Carbone have joined forces. They are now proposing to create the International Center for Carbon Sequestration (ICCS). This initiative is already supported by companies from the oil industry and other industrial sectors that are high emitters of GHGs, together with Trade Associations. Support has also been mobilized from the agricultural and forestry sectors as well as from public and private financial agencies.

Expected results:

Having constituted a platform where interested public and private parties will find the overall information on R&D, pilot projects, best-practices, lessons learned, financial and economic aspects including risk assessment. This objective is mainly relying on the creation of a Website where information on carbon sequestration will be available.

Having facilitated the funding of Research and Development activities as well as pilot projects dealing with innovative activities of carbon sequestration. The ICCS will give high priority to those climate change projects aimed at the conservation of Biodiversity and/or the fight against desertification, while integrating the social dimension. A special attention will also be paid to adaptation measures to climate change.

Having provided advisory services and help desk on carbon sequestration options and contribute to establishing and disseminating norms and standards for carbon sequestration best practices and their market valuation. Particular attention will be given to sustainable development concerns and certification issues.

Having created regional offices in the different continents in order to adapt and specialize the information and the services to the different contexts. The regional offices will play a key role to promote technology transfer from the North to South.

Specific targets of the Partnership/Initiative and timeframe for their achievement:

- Start of the Website by mid-2002

- Creation of the independent ICCS Foundation by the end of 2002
- Full service in place at the end of 2003

Coordination and Implementation mechanism

The creation of the Center is following a consultative process, engaging constructively all interested partners.

The International Board, including the Founding members, will first meet in 3rd quarter 2002 and will define:

- The legal structure of the Center, and will elaborate the legal documents;
- The composition, principles, objectives and operational rules to be followed by the Managing Board which will be in charge of the day to day management of the Center and the Scientific Advisory Board;
- The rights and obligations of the members and partners.

The Scientific Advisory Board will meet soon after the first Board meeting. The ICCS will be formally created in 4th quarter 2002.

Some initial partners will be considered as Strategic partners, taking into account their key involvement in the elaboration or promotion of the concept. Some other initial partners, bringing a key participation (financial or in kind) will be considered as Founding members.

The ICCS headquarters will be based in Paris and five regional hubs will be set up in order to make sure that every country will be able to access ICCS services and have its voice heard.

Arrangements for funding

UNEP/GEF

Swiss Re, TotalFinaElf, Agence Française de Développement, Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations, ONF, Eco-Carbone, Sofiproteol, Prolea.

Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer

Training courses will be organized in different countries and will cover all topics related to biological carbon sequestration both on forestry and agriculture sectors. Biomass energy will also be covered. Some training courses on conservation agriculture have already been implemented in Brazil and will be integrated within the ICCS. There will be specialized training courses for: farming leaders, agricultural technicians, agronomists, scientists and decision-makers.

Information sessions on carbon sequestration will be organized in order to sensitize public decision-makers in developing countries and help capacity building in these countries. Pro-Natura International is currently preparing such a session for seven African Ministers of Environment.

The project will finance the review of the specific needs for formation and education, particularly in developing countries and the definition of the content for the different training programs. In some cases, participants to the training courses will be charged to cover the cost of the session (hosting, organization cost). In some other cases, the ICCS will cover the cost for the participants. The second case will be exclusively dedicated to participants from developing countries. This aims at significantly reinforcing the capacity building in developing countries on the thematic of carbon sequestration.

Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level

The ICCS will support specific pilot projects or R&D activities that are not likely to be financed through private mechanisms. These projects will have to prove to have a high content in terms of global environment preservation, sustainable development, and adaptation. They will be implemented on a small-scale area but will have to be easily replicable on a larger scale.

For instance, projects dealing with the promotion of agroforestry systems in rural areas appear to be eligible to financing through the ICCS. These pilot projects can either be submitted to the ICCS by an external organism looking for financing, or be conceived by the ICCS staff, on request of the ICCS Scientific Advisory Council.

The ICCS is expected to directly finance about 8 pilot projects during the three-year implementation period: 2 in 2002, 2 in 2003 and 4 in 2004. These projects will have to be scientifically approved by the Scientific Advisory Council and validated by the Board.

Monitoring Arrangements

The Center will have permanent staff specialized in biological, physical and chemical carbon sequestration as well as in biomass energy. Some working groups will be created on specific themes that will be proposed by the Scientific Advisory Council and selected by the Board.

The participants to these working groups will be representatives of the ICCS members.

Participation will rely on a voluntary basis. The permanent staff will be in charge of organizing the working groups and reporting on their results.

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