

Forest Carbon Technical Advisor, Katoomba Ecosystem Services Incubator

Summary

The Forest Carbon Technical Advisor will report to the Katoomba Incubator Manager and be responsible for providing capacity-building and technical support to partners and projects in Latin America and Africa. This will entail working closely with Incubator staff, consultants and project partners, including civil society organizations, private sector and government agencies. Primary activities include: design and participation in capacity building events and workshop, development of tools and templates for forest carbon project development, and direct technical support to specific forest carbon (and other ecosystem services) projects in the Incubator portfolio.

The Katoomba Ecosystem Services Incubator supports innovative ecosystem services projects as a means to catalyze markets and build capacity in Latin America and Africa. The Incubator strategically invests in the development phase of projects with strong community and biodiversity benefits, enabling projects and local partners to reach the point where they can effectively engage private investors or buyers on solid, equitable footing. The Incubator provides a suite of technical, business and legal support to help local partners grow their projects, drawing both on its own specialists and the Katoomba Group's extensive network of leading experts and practitioners around the world.

Launched in late 2007, in partnership with EcoDecisión, the Incubator focuses on Latin America (particularly Brazil and the Andean region) and East Africa (Tanzania and Uganda) and West Africa (Ghana and Liberia). With an initial emphasis on carbon markets, particularly REDD, the Incubator has a strong broader interest in multiple-ecosystem service projects.

Responsibilities

- Conduct feasibility and screening assessments of new project opportunities and make recommendations for project development and investment;
- Guide technical design process of forest carbon projects to emerging international standards and methodologies, including the coordination of teams involving Incubator staff, technical consultants and local partner organizations to bring projects to market and/or into emerging public programs and mechanisms;
- Investigate and stay abreast of developments in forest carbon standards, methodologies and protocols to inform Incubator project development and capacity building activities;
- Synthesize emerging experience from projects and related initiatives to develop tools and templates that facilitate future project development;
- Monitor forest carbon initiatives that may have implications for the Incubator's work and keep other Katoomba Group programs (Ecosystem Marketplace, Katoomba Group) informed;
- Represent the Incubator in relevant international conferences and meetings as appropriate.

- Work as a part of a team to raise funds for program activities

Qualifications

- Advanced degree in forestry, ecology, geography or related field and significant relevant professional experience relating to forest carbon offset projects;
- Familiarity with technical aspects of forest carbon project design such as baseline modeling, forest inventory and carbon stock assessment;
- Familiarity with standards, methodologies, and markets for carbon and other ecosystem services;
- 5-10 years experience working with research or development projects in developing countries;
- Experience working with collaborators from diverse backgrounds, good interpersonal skills and ability and appetite to work with interdisciplinary teams;
- Strong writing and analytic skills and ability to communicate technical information clearly and simply to a varied audience both in writing and in public presentations (including representatives from indigenous peoples, local communities, governments, companies and banks, as well as the scientific community);
- Strong organizational and time management skills, and a self directed management style;
- Effective written and oral communication and inter-personal skills;
- Willingness to travel internationally roughly 30% of the time ;
- Fluency in English; with Spanish and/or Portuguese a plus

Location

Anywhere with a reasonable time overlap with Quito, Washington and London.

Closing date

15 August 2009

Contact

Please send CV and cover letter to Jacob Olander, Incubator Manager, jolander@ecodecision.com.ec. No phone calls please.