



## **BOKU Carbon Offsetting System – Call for Proposals 2017/2018**

### **Terms of Reference**

#### **1. Introduction**

The BOKU Carbon Offsetting System (BOKU CO<sub>2</sub>-System) was founded with the intention of supporting innovative greenhouse gas reduction projects in (primarily) Least Developed Countries (LDCs) within a university/research context which aim to lead to structural and sustainable changes in the country of implementation. As such, projects funded by the BOKU CO<sub>2</sub>-System, make a positive contribution to international development and facilitate technology- and knowledge transfer and exchange.

Many carbon offset projects in the past have focused solely on mitigating greenhouse gas emissions without giving due attention to issues of sustainability and potential negative side-effects of project implementation. The BOKU CO<sub>2</sub>-System supports projects which explicitly address these issues and include positive ecological (e.g. positive effects on local biodiversity, soil protection), social (e.g. stakeholder participation, consideration of gender issues) and economic (e.g. positive effects on the local economy, job creation) co-benefits.

Furthermore, the BOKU CO<sub>2</sub>-System supports projects in an academic context. Accompanying research helps expand the local and international knowledge base as well as highlight good and best-practice examples of GHG mitigation projects. Student involvement gives local and BOKU students the chance to focus on real-life examples and contributes to capacity building locally and internationally. The funding provided also helps to expand and scale up otherwise short term, small scale research projects with greenhouse gas mitigation potential.

#### **2. Eligible projects**

Within this current call, the BOKU CO<sub>2</sub>-System will fund one to two projects (subject on available finance) to be carried out in a Least Developed Country (LDC). Project consortia must include one BOKU participant (project lead) and at least one organisation in the host country, but are welcome to include relevant Austrian national and international stakeholders. Projects in the areas of e.g. energy efficiency, renewable energy, agriculture, forestry, methane reduction and transport, which include multiple positive co-benefits (see below) are invited to submit a proposal.

#### **3. Project deliverables**

- CO<sub>2</sub>-eq reductions quantified in a price per tonne
- Impact on SDGs
- Reporting requirements
  - Project Design Document
  - Short annual reports
  - Detailed monitoring reports
  - Final report



Project deliverables will be evaluated annually by the advisory board of the BOKU Carbon Offset system. Further payments will be dependent on project progress.

#### 4. General project criteria

- Project proposals must include an approximate price per tonne for CO<sub>2-eq</sub> reductions achieved. The current prices of certificates within the BOKU CO<sub>2</sub>-System are between 19,5 Euros/tonne of CO<sub>2-eq</sub> and 65 Euros/tonne of CO<sub>2-eq</sub> and serve as an indicative value.
- The CO<sub>2</sub> reduction calculation must be transparent, accurate and comparable. Calculations should at best take into account good practice guidance of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change or UNFCCC approved methodologies such as Clean Development Mechanism methodologies.
- Project location: projects are to be carried out in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) so as to contribute to knowledge and technology transfer. Proposals for projects in non LDCs need to explain this choice.
- The intervention logic should be explained and (if possible) it should be explained how the project is carrying on results of earlier research or education projects.
- Research and education: projects are to be carried out within the framework of recognized academic research and education. Proposals are asked to elaborate research and educational aspects of the project.
- Projects must include multiple co-benefits beyond offsetting GHGs, such as climate protection, biodiversity, gender equality, participation, education and further education.
- Projects must indicate how they take the SDGs (5.) and the guiding principles (6.) into account
- Project volume should be between 50.000€ und 300.000€.
- In Kind: Projects are invited to include 10% in-kind contributions

#### 5. Sustainable Development Goals – The United Nations

*The United Nations has published 17 Sustainable Development Goals to guide the role of public, non-profit, for-profit, and voluntary sectors in global development. Project proposals should indicate how they intend to take the SDGs into account.*

- **Goal 1:** End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- **Goal 2:** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- **Goal 3:** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- **Goal 4:** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- **Goal 5:** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- **Goal 6:** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- **Goal 7:** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- **Goal 8:** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



- **Goal 9:** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- **Goal 10:** Reduce inequality within and among countries
- **Goal 11:** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- **Goal 12:** Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- **Goal 13:** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- **Goal 14:** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- **Goal 15:** Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- **Goal 16:** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- **Goal 17:** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

## 6. Guiding Principles

*Project proposals should indicate how they intend to take the following principles into account. The principles are based upon Joint Principles of the Austrian Development Agency and principles of the BOKU Carbon Offsetting system:*

- **Ownership:** host-country stakeholders are the owners (“whole-country ownership”) and must thus resume the control and responsibility for all processes, functions etc.
- **Do no harm:** no unintentional negative ecological or social impacts occur due to the intervention(s) / investment(s).
- **Equity, equality and non-discrimination:** fairness in distribution of benefits and opportunities, equal chances and substantive equality as well as prohibition of unfair distinction based on sex, age, national or ethnical origin, language, religion, disability etc.
- **Participation and inclusion:** active involvement of all stakeholders in planning and decision-making process, where different opinions, interests etc. are duly taken into account and negotiated.
- **Accountability and transparency:** all actors – public and private – are responsible and answerable for their actions and, that efficient sanctions are in place if commitments are not met. Information must be relevant and accessible, timely and accurate.
- **Empowerment:** strengthening of capabilities of individuals and groups to make autonomous and self-determined choices and to transform them into desired actions and outcomes.
- **Sustainability:** strengthened capabilities and mechanism for reconciliation of environmental protection, social equity and economic demands. **Long term nature:** proposals should elaborate a plan for mid- to long-term stability of the intervention (including the time after the project is completed).



## 7. Project Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated according to an evaluation grid on the basis of the selection criteria listed below. On the basis of the pre-proposals the review board will select the 3-5 best proposals. These will then be invited to submit a full-proposal. The review board consists of 3 experts from the Advisory Board of the BOKU CO<sub>2</sub> Carbon Offset System.

Selection criteria, pre-proposals:

- Project idea and intervention logic incl. reference to scientific basis of the proposal
- CO<sub>2</sub>-eq-Methodology applied
- Consideration of SDGs
- Experience and capacity of consortium
- Potential integration into BOKU teaching and research

Selection criteria, full-proposals:

- Quality of proposal
- CO<sub>2</sub>-eq-Methodology applied
- Project design, intervention logic, implementation and monitoring plan
- Consideration of SDGs and guiding principles (see terms of reference)
- Experience and capacity of consortium
- CO<sub>2</sub>-eq price per tonne
- Additionality - the carbon emission reductions are above and beyond business as usual
- Potential integration into BOKU teaching and research

Additional criterion:

- Potential leverage for further research based on project results and/or infrastructure

## 8. References:

- BOKU Carbon Offset System: <http://www.boku.ac.at/wissenschaftliche-initiativen/zentrum-fuer-globalen-wandel-nachhaltigkeit/themen/nachhaltigkeit/co2-kompensation/>
- Clean Development Mechanism: <http://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/index.html>
- Gold Standard: <http://www.goldstandard.org/>
- CCBA Standard: <http://www.climate-standards.org/>
- SDGs: <http://www.globalgoals.org/>



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## **Short description of the 4 current BOKU climate mitigation projects:**

### **Carbon Offset Project Enclosure in North Gondar (Ethiopia)**

The low level of institutionalized property rights combined with rapid population growth (humans and livestock) has led to a change in (intensified) land use, soil degradation and deforestation in Ethiopia. An important counter-strategy is reforestation and natural regeneration supported through natural enclosure. The project has started a permanent participatory process with local land users on site. Further, the enclosures are characterized as a common resource and methods for common sustainable use are developed, implemented and monitored.

#### Project description:

[http://www.boku.ac.at/fileadmin/data/H99000/H99100/nachhaltigkeit/CO2\\_Kompensation/Klimaschutzprojekte/COPE\\_Project\\_Description.pdf](http://www.boku.ac.at/fileadmin/data/H99000/H99100/nachhaltigkeit/CO2_Kompensation/Klimaschutzprojekte/COPE_Project_Description.pdf)

### **Sustainable Landfill Gas Emission Reduction in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)**

In the following project, the focus is put on prevention of methane emissions due to adequate collection and recycling of biogenous solid waste. Further, the project empowers vulnerable target groups (waste collectors, single mothers to be employed at the compost site) through trainings and job creation to become more resilient in their activities. As a result, not only a significant amount of CO<sub>2</sub> is bound, but also high quality compost is produced, which can be used in agriculture to restore important nutrients into the soil.

#### Project description:

[http://www.boku.ac.at/fileadmin/data/H99000/H99100/CO2\\_Kompensation/Addis/Full-proposal\\_Sugar\\_AA.pdf](http://www.boku.ac.at/fileadmin/data/H99000/H99100/CO2_Kompensation/Addis/Full-proposal_Sugar_AA.pdf)

### **Reforestation in La Gamba/the Golfo Dulce region (Costa Rica)**

Tropical reforestation is among the most efficient ways to sequester CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere. Costa Rica is among the few tropical countries that have made ambitious commitments for reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, with a strong emphasis also on reducing deforestation and active reforestation. Initial planting of the 14.6 ha available immediately will take about two years (Project start January 2016). During this time, people from the local communities will be paid as workers, gaining experience in planting and caring for the trees. Monitoring of the planted trees will continue for another 28 years.

#### Project description:

[http://www.boku.ac.at/fileadmin/data/H99000/H99100/CO2\\_Kompensation/Costa\\_Rica/BOKU\\_Carbon\\_Offset\\_full\\_Proposal\\_P\\_Hietz\\_07\\_2015.pdf](http://www.boku.ac.at/fileadmin/data/H99000/H99100/CO2_Kompensation/Costa_Rica/BOKU_Carbon_Offset_full_Proposal_P_Hietz_07_2015.pdf)

### **Carbon offsetting for sustainable rural development in Nepal**

Overutilization of government owned land in Nepal has led to wide spread degradation of vast forest areas which have been converted to grazing land and shrub land. Recognizing the importance of forests for delivering environmental services, Nepal made great achievements in the area of community forestry and participatory conservation and thereby could frequently reverse the negative impacts of former land use practices. Garinshankar and Siwalik are two regions in Nepal, where community based forestry serves as good practice example.

#### Project description:

[http://www.boku.ac.at/fileadmin/data/H99000/H99100/CO2\\_Kompensation/Nepal/Carbon\\_Offset\\_Nepal\\_Proposal\\_\\_Budget.pdf](http://www.boku.ac.at/fileadmin/data/H99000/H99100/CO2_Kompensation/Nepal/Carbon_Offset_Nepal_Proposal__Budget.pdf)