



## **Flights for Forests**

*The carbon offset scheme for the Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific  
July 2011*

### **Introduction**

Aviation accounts for 4 to 9 per cent of the climate change impact of human activity. With more and more people flying, air travel is a major contributor to environmental damage and global warming in the world.

We number among these people, as the Jesuit mission requires many of us to fly frequently as we work together. However as we commit to Reconciliation with Creation, we seek to mitigate in some way the damage our trips are causing to the environment.

*Flights for Forests* is a carbon offset scheme the Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific is proposing as our way of recognising the impact of our travel on the environment in a way that helps rural communities that are affected by global economic and climate changes.

See Annex 1 for carbon offset computation.

### **How it will work**

*Flights for Forests* is a voluntary scheme open to all Provinces, institutions and individuals within the Conference. Each will be asked to sign up for an initial period to the end of 2012. A contribution of US\$5 is sought for every flight taken. The contributions will go into a fund that will be used for forest renewal activities undertaken by indigenous youth groups in rural parts of Cambodia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Pedro Walpole SJ is the project lead and Environmental Science for Social Change (ESSC) will manage the fund in conjunction with the Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific.

The communities supported by the fund will provide the Conference with a report on the use of our contribution every six months.

Budget provided in Annex 2.

## Communities we will support

We propose to begin by supporting indigenous youth groups in rural parts of Cambodia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

### Cambodia: Battambang Parish

Volunteers of the Battambang Parish are bringing new life to deforested areas and reducing its impact on the environment by



- Setting up and caring for a seedling nursery of local trees
- Managing the waste segregation and composting process in church-run dormitories for students
- Collecting and selling recyclable items from the different houses in the church compound
- Planting and managing trees in church property e.g. at the foot of deforested mountain areas in Pailin

The support of *Flights for Forests* will help sustain these efforts by a group of 10 volunteers working with a Jesuit scholastic. It will also enable the group to buy basic nursery supplies and tools, and build a simple pulley-rope-and bucket system to sustain the water source for the seedlings.

### Philippines: Indigenous Pulangiyan Community



The indigenous Pulangiyan community in Bendum, Mindanao, practices agroforestry and assists in the natural regeneration of forests along the Pantadon Range. The youth in Bendum do their part by removing external pressures e.g. weeds and biotic interference, applying controlled disturbances to trigger germination of native species and preparing the germination site.

With the support of *Flights for Forests*, the youth will be able to hold on-site workshops to share their assisted natural regeneration practices with youth in other Pulangiyan villages along the Upper Pulangi Watershed. The community will also be able to establish tree nurseries.

### Indonesia

Community to be identified

### **What will be required of participants**

- Upon signing up for *Flights for Forests* (see Annex 3 for registration form), Provinces, institutions and individuals will be asked to provide the number of flights they have undertaken every six months.
- The contributions should be forwarded every six months (preferably through the Province treasurer) to the dedicated account that will be managed by ESSC.
- The tentative dates for contributions to be forwarded are January 2012, July 2012 and January 2013.

## Annex 1

### Sample carbon offset computation for direct annual flights

Actual computations will vary in relation to distance travelled, but for the purposes of this proposal, we have used a general computation based on an average distance travelled. Roughly estimated, four trees offset one tonne of carbon. The trees we are starting with are seedlings that have to be cared for so that they mature and absorb the carbon. This takes decades.

This approach does not simply “buy off” our problems. It is intended to bring about social development in values by working with youth for the benefit of future generations. If we begin to take our present environmental problems seriously, we will begin to address the needed sustainability and healing of our broken world.

| <b>Number of trips</b>  | <b>Type of travel</b> | <b>Sample route</b>             | <b>Total number of flights</b> |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 10  | Domestic              | Melbourne to Sydney             | 20 flights                     |
| 4   | International         | Australia to Singapore (direct) | 8 flights                      |
|   |                       |                                 |                                |
| Greenhouse emissions from this is an estimated 24.14 tonnes of carbon, which would take 94 mature trees to offset                                   |                       |                                 |                                |
| Source: <a href="https://secure.greenfleet.com.au/treetotaller/treetotaller.htm">https://secure.greenfleet.com.au/treetotaller/treetotaller.htm</a> |                       |                                 |                                |

## Annex 2

### Budget for Flights for Forest fund from launch until the end of December 2012

#### CAMBODIA

Community: Samakum Yuvichun Dambai Parethan (Youth for the Environment Volunteers) Battambang Parish, Cambodia

| Item                                   | Amount (US\$)   |
|--|-----------------|
| Community relations and sustainability | 490.00          |
| Youth activities and training          | 540.00          |
| Nursery costs                          | 470.00          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                           | <b>1,500.00</b> |

#### PHILIPPINES

Community: Indigenous Pulangiyen Community, Philippines

| Item                                   | Amount (US\$)   |
|--|-----------------|
| Community relations and sustainability | 490.00          |
| Youth activities and training          | 540.00          |
| Nursery costs                          | 470.00          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                           | <b>1,500.00</b> |

#### INDONESIA

Community: to be identified

| Item            | Amount (US\$)   |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| To be developed |                 |
|                 |                 |
|                 |                 |
| <b>ESTIMATE</b> | <b>1,500.00</b> |

**TOTAL BUDGET: US\$4,500**

**Annex 3**

**Registration form for *Flights for Forests***



Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific  
Contributions to *Flights for Forests*

*Caring to offset our carbon footprint*

**Period of commitment:** July 2011 to end of December 2012

Organisation / Institution: \_\_\_\_\_  
Province: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Details on where and how contributions should be sent to ESSC will be emailed in due course. For more information, please contact Ms Cherielee Domer at [cheriejcap@gmail.com](mailto:cheriejcap@gmail.com)

*Thank you for your care for the environment!*