



**Green Economy and Sustainable Development:
Bringing Back the Social Dimension
CONFERENCE**

**Realizing Pro-poor Development in the Carbon
Commodity Chain: Understanding the 'Value' of
the Carbon Asset at Multiple Scales**

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Carbon commodities.

Examples.

Implications.



Q?

How do values in the carbon commodity affect the ability to bring the social back into carbon finance?

A?

Pro-development labels may influence project outcomes, but
the **unveiling of the commodity is not enough**;

better information on **political economic processes** and agency
is needed to complement specific project/technology types.

Commodities create opportunities, but **political economy trumps**

Commodities

Carbon finance creates commodities.

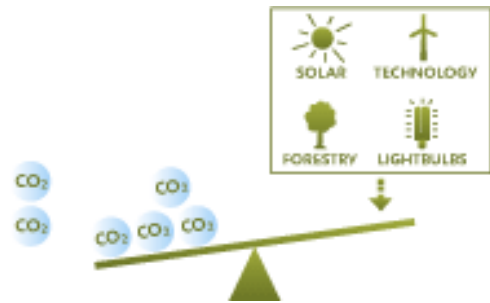
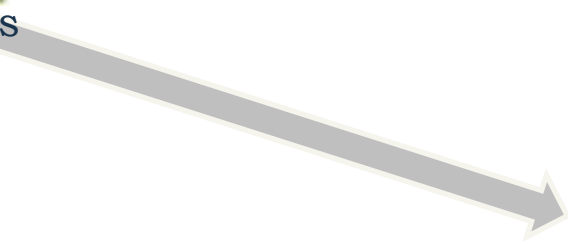
Commodities



Developed countries



Developing countries



Local **use value** of the project;
global **exchange value** of the commodity

Commodities



'Veiled' commodities: the global doesn't see the local

Commodities



Pro-local development standards attempting to improve local benefits



Local in the global; to what extent & with what outcomes?

Examples.

Example1 : Hydro CDM



Example1 : Hydro CDM

Benefits, but uneven.

Structure/agency interplay.

Community	Benefits	Importance for access to site	Importance as workers	Importance for watershed	Level of Community organisation
#1	85% Electrified	High	High	Low	Low
#2	54-85% Electrified	Low	Low	High	High
#3	0% electrified	High (previously)	Low	Low	Low

Re-labeling:

Start to see change in global exchange value (**carbon price increase**)

Not in use value (**uneven development not reworked**)

Local **agency** and **political economy** more important

Example2 : Improved Cookstoves



Example2 : Improved Cookstoves

“integrated carbon-development”

Scalable benefits, but hard to commodify.

Example2 : Improved Cookstoves

Local use + effective monitoring of use = opportunities?

Example2 : Improved Cookstoves

Standard	Projects in pipeline	Scale of project / carbon reductions	Stove Projects registered	Example countries	Projected volume of credits from existing and pipeline projects
CDM	4 (0.08% of total projects in CDM pipeline)	Only small-scale possible	1	Nigeria (registered); Nepal (pipeline), Bangladesh, Mexico, Guatemala (CDM PoA pipeline)	113,100 t/CO ₂ e CERs
Gold Standard VER	9 (18.75% of total projects listed on the Gold Standard)	Large scale possible	3	Uganda, Ghana, Mali (registered); Africa as regional focus (pipeline)	1.1 million t/CO ₂ e VERs

Data March 2010; Simon, Bumpus and Mann, *Global Environmental Change*, 2011

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Example2 : Improved Cookstoves

Re-labeling:

Not so important: stoves are easily labeled because of their '*integrated carbon development*'

Specifics of technology affect global/local inclusion

Implications.

Q1: 'Wiring' projects into the wider carbon economy

Local political economy, agency and technological requirements important to connect local to the carbon economy

Q2: Shifting local use values by changing global exchange values

Unveiling of the commodity does not necessarily change local conditions, but provides some movement to include the social

Policy implications

Ensuring interaction from local people at a **systemic and integral** way is important for 'ethical' carbon to work

Political economy with an agency-oriented approach at **micro-meso-macro** levels is important in fostering pro-social effects

Policy implications

Better **information on processes** is useful

Implications for: climate finance, MRV, REDD+, NAMAs

Policy implications

Interconnectivity between actors, space and time are important and should be **facilitated by policy** for carbon & climate finance connections

But, acknowledge limitations of the market & commodity

OUR GOAL IS TO WRITE
BUG-FREE SOFTWARE.
I'LL PAY A TEN-DOLLAR
BONUS FOR EVERY BUG
YOU FIND AND FIX.



S. Adams E-mail: SCOTTADAMS@AOL.COM

YAHOO!
WE'RE
RICH



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YES !!!
YES !!!

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I HOPE
THIS
DRIVES
THE RIGHT
BEHAVIOR.

I'M GONNA
WRITE ME A
NEW MINIVAN
THIS AFTER-
NOON!



Thank you!

Major transformation requires:

information on asymmetries;

inclusion at systemic levels; and understanding on how

interconnections are mediated by social relations.

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