



## Editorial



### POSTAL CARBON FUND, A TRANSNATIONAL AND SECTORAL OPERATIONAL SOLUTION WITH A VIEW TO COP21

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Chair of the  
Postal Carbon Fund

At this time of reviewing achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), recent media reports have been suggesting that the results for MDG 7 «Ensure environmental sustainability» are disappointing. The outlook for COP21 and the lack of solidarity among countries regarding the commitments made to date would appear to corroborate that view. Global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions increased by 50% between 1990 and 2012; however, despite the fact that forests store CO<sub>2</sub>, deforestation has risen in certain countries.

The permafrost begins to melt and to free CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to there held under the ice.

In this complex context, in which the environmental stakes are very much dependent on the economic pillar, one way forward is to develop a sectoral carbon fund. Doing so allows a proactive approach

to be adopted, providing for the environmental and economic dimensions. In this connection, the Postal Carbon Fund is all about climatic solidarity: industrialized Posts with emissions reduction and offset programmes finance developing Posts' projects through the purchase of carbon credits. Developing Posts propose carbon offset projects, which allow them to operate on a low-carbon basis while improving their quality of service. This «win-win» mechanism brings economic co-benefits, as Posts are interconnected or partners in certain activities (money transfers, mail flows, etc.), and the customers of industrialized Posts benefit from the improved quality of service provided by developing Posts.

**The Postal Carbon Fund is thus an economic tool that incorporates the environmental dimension,** but the projects selected also encompass the social and societal dimensions.

Through the *Postal Carbon Fund*, the postal sector is proposing an **innovative and unique initiative** that will allow it to be **part of the COP21 solution.**



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## Interview with...

### MS PATTHAMAPORN KHEMMA, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, THAILAND POST



#### Why you are associated to an initiative such as Postal Carbon Fund?

The reason why we are associated to such initiative is that Thailand Post (THP) realizes the impacts of climate change and in particular concerns about current environmental problems resulting from numerous activities run by postal sectors. For Thailand Post itself, we have so far launched various campaigns such as LED lighting replacement in office buildings and setting up air-conditioning operating hours, etc. with an effort to reduce energy consumption in the Company. As a result, we are enthusiastic to join Postal Carbon Fund and we are more than pleased to be one of the founding members.

As for myself, I work in the International Business Development Department. My main responsibilities also include being the coordinator and focal contact point of this special project. I am now coordinating

with other THP colleagues from relevant departments to work closely to pave the way for the potential Project. I am so thrilled to be a part of this very Project and look forward to the success ahead of us.

#### How took place the training on offsetting the last 21<sup>st</sup> April?

The training session on the carbon offset and carbon market focusing on postal services was conducted by Mr. Alexander Murillo from Eco-Act at the THP Headquarters on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2015 in Bangkok. It was attended by THP experts from departments concerned such as Corporate Strategy, Construction and Maintenance, Personnel Development, Operating Systems Management, Transport and of course International Business Development where I'm currently working. The training was full of beneficial information which changed my aspect and made me fully understand the concept of carbon market. Previously, I thought carbon offsetting was all about reducing carbon dioxide and energy consumption but had no clue about the carbon offsetting process. This training offered the great opportunity for us to share knowledge and ideas about the carbon offset.

#### What did you learn and in what it is going to help you for the detection of the project?

Needless to say, I have learned a lot more than I expected. What I learned includes the concept of Postal Carbon Fund, the principles of funding mechanism of carbon offset, methodologies of carbon compensation as well as the criteria for carbon projects. The most important information for the detection of the project is the eligible methodologies of each type of projects. In my point of view, I think the demonstration and evaluation tool of additionality created by Executive Board (EB) of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) is somewhat useful for the project detection since the tool consists of identification of alternatives to the project activities, investment analysis, barrier analysis and common practical analysis. More importantly, some examples of projects developed by various countries also help us figure out the possibility of the potential project for THP.

## Postal Carbon Fund news

### 2 NOVEMBER 2015: NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN BERNE

Work has been going full steam ahead, with training having been provided to the Posts of Costa Rica, Ecuador, Senegal, Thailand and Togo which were issued with a questionnaire aimed at identifying the sources of their greenhouse gas emissions as well as existing or potential carbon offset projects.

EcoAct, in conjunction with the *Postal Carbon Fund*, has developed a methodology that allows countries to be challenged about their responses. A number of solar, alternative vehicle and other energy-saving projects are currently in progress, and now need to be fine-tuned through exchanges between EcoAct and the Posts concerned. EcoAct has also been considering possible sources of funding for certain projects to supplement the financing provided by the *Postal Carbon Fund*.

## Next steps



### Our calendar

#### > December 2015:

Identification and formalization of two or three projects with a view to the first developments.

## Climate change news

### THE FOREST: AN ALLY IN THE EFFORT TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

Deforestation and forest degradation represent some 12% of overall emissions. Forests play a climate-stabilization role in that they store CO<sub>2</sub>. However, while they act as CO<sub>2</sub> sinks by absorbing CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere, they release CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere when deforestation occurs.

According to a report presented to the 14th World Forestry Congress, held in Durban (South Africa) in September 2015, **some 51,600 km<sup>2</sup> the equivalent of over 6.7 million football fields of forests disappear each year**. Pressure on forests arises mainly as a result of agricultural needs, which account for 80% of deforestation. The most severe deforestation is occurring in South America and Africa.

However, practices are changing, and palm oil and soya plantations are currently being scrutinized by numerous stakeholders. Moreover, businesses not wishing to be seen in a negative light are reviewing their strategies. In addition, an increasing number of

trees are being planted (7% of the world's forested areas), and progress is being made in the area of sustainable forest management. Thus far in 2015, China (People's Rep.) has led the way in terms of the increase in its forested area.

In conclusion, preserving the forest is crucial in the effort to combat climate change.



## Climate change news

### THE WORLD'S PERMAFROST IS THAWING BEFORE OUR VERY EYES!

Like the forest, permafrost (permanently frozen ground found in cold regions) plays an important role in climate change in that it contains vast amounts of carbon. For reasons yet unknown, global warming is occurring at a faster rate in the Arctic regions. In addition to carbon, permafrost contains bacteria, which, when ice melts, begin to digest the carbon and release CO<sub>2</sub>. This thawing of the world's permafrost is a fairly recent phenomenon, so its impact is limited for now. Permafrost contains twice as much carbon as is currently in the atmosphere. It is not currently possible to quantify the emissions associated with the thawing of permafrost. However, **if all the carbon stored in permafrost were to be transformed by bacteria, the CO<sub>2</sub> content in the atmosphere would triple!** This part of the Arctic, however, is not currently included in the IPCC's figures.

Viruses, such as the one lying dormant in Siberian permafrost for 30,000 years, have also been found in permafrost. Is climate change a Pandora's box in the making? Whatever the case, it has not yet said its last word in terms of its impact on biodiversity and agriculture. Action is what is needed...



### ARE GRAND CRU WINES ABOUT TO FEEL THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE?

French and European vineyards are expected to undergo significant change over the coming years as the areas suitable for vineyards in the world's major wine-producing regions could shrink by as much as 75% by 2050.

The sector will need to respond to water shortages and the multiplication of diseases. Various scenarios are currently being studied. Are vines set to become nomadic?



### THE AMERICAN BUSINESS ACT ON CLIMATE PLEDGE

At the end of July 2015, 13 large companies, including Apple, Coca-Cola and Google, undertook to invest 140 billion USD in low-carbon projects. The participating companies set their own objectives, in line with their respective areas of activity.

Walmart, for example, a leader in the retail sector, committed to increase its renewable energy production by 600%, while the aluminium manufacturer Alcoa pledged to cut its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 50%. Companies' commitments under the American Business Act on Climate Pledge are expected to result in 1,600 megawatts of renewable energy being brought online, and to produce a 15% reduction in water consumption.

The first part of this commitment is expected to be supplemented in autumn 2016. These voluntary commitments should be supported by other commitments to allow the targeted reductions to be achieved.

### VANUATU: FOOD SECURITY AND THE ECONOMY JEOPARDIZED BY CLIMATE CHANGE

Vanuatu is a South Pacific archipelago made up of 83 small islands. **Classified by the United Nations as the country most vulnerable to climate change**, it is in danger of disappearing because of the rise in sea level. Vanuatu has already felt the first effects of climate change, the consequences of which are severely affecting its population. **Cyclone Pam, one of the most powerful recorded in the Pacific, hit Vanuatu in March 2015.** The houses destroyed, lightweight structures made of bamboo and coconut leaves, were rebuilt in a matter of two weeks thanks to the know-how and efforts of the country's inhabitants. However, while the houses may have been quickly rebuilt, the same cannot be said for the food crops destroyed by the cyclone, on which every household depends. Fortunately, the locals were resourceful and able to use their traditional harvesting techniques. The IMF also measured the **impact on Vanuatu's economy, which was found to have shrunk by 2% compared with the 3.5% growth** enjoyed one year earlier. Proof indeed that climate change is actually happening, and without even factoring in the risk posed by El Niño and the strong likelihood of Vanuatu experiencing drought in 2016!



*"Tokelauans used to live stress-free; now everyone is very worried. When I was little I used to play on the beach; now the beach has gone."*

### WHAT ABOUT OTHER ISLANDS OF PACIFIC?



*"Coastal erosion has already claimed up to 40 metres of land. When I was growing up my family planted breadfruit trees. They release oxygen and absorb the carbon dioxide that we produce. But for a while now, the fruit has been shrinking. Why aren't rich countries doing more to help us? Do we no longer exist to them? Can they not adapt their lifestyles even a little to help protect our future?"*



*"Mums and dads nowadays are constantly fretting about how their children are going to survive in the future. Our groundwater is salinated and we can't collect rainwater because it doesn't rain, so what are we going to drink?"*

## Key facts and figures



**-37% by 2025 and -43% by 2030**  
are the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction targets announced  
by Brazil on Sunday. (relative to 2005 emissions levels).



**First seven months of 2015:**  
The world's hottest months since meteorological records  
began in 1880.



**80% decline in forested land since 1990  
and 25% of human CO<sub>2</sub> emissions**  
absorbed by land vegetation.



**146 countries representing 87 % of the world emissions**  
had made public at the beginning of October their objectives of reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>

## What's being said...



“ It is not enough to take measures; we need to change our relationship with ourselves, with the Earth, and with others. ”

*French citizen living in the south of France*



“ In Paris, we will be asking only one question: is humankind capable of deciding to preserve life on the planet? (...) Some will say to me that this is something that can be decided later, at another conference. Well, I can assure you that if we don't make this decision in Paris, it will not only be late, but too late for the world. ”

*François Hollande, President of France,  
at the UN General Assembly, September 2015*



“ The developed countries polluted the world but we shall help to remedy it, even if we suffer from it. ... India, third world emitter of greenhouse gas, also promises to reduce its « carbon intensity », which measures carbon dioxide emissions by point of GDP, of 35 % by 2030 with regard to the level of 2005. It is an enormous step for India; also it is a very ambitious objective. ”

*Prakash Javadekar, Minister for the Environment of India*



“ Citizens of the world, call the politicians of the richest and the most broadcasting countries of greenhouse gas to meet finally the climatic challenge. Heads of state, dare! Dare to recognize that the fight for the climate conditions the future of our world: the health, the economy, the employment, the solidarity and the equality, the agriculture and the food, the peace. ”

*Nicolas Hulot, journalist-reporter*

## At your service

Any questions, ideas, or comments? Please send us an e-mail at: [stephanie.scoupe@postalcarbonfund.com](mailto:stephanie.scoupe@postalcarbonfund.com)