

**SCOLEL TÉ**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2006**



## About Scolel Té

The Scolel Té project for sustainable livelihoods and carbon management assists farmers and communities in southern Mexico to develop more sustainable land management and better livelihoods through the provision of carbon services. The project is administered by the Fondo Bioclimático (a non-profit trust fund) with technical services provided by Ambio, ECCM and El Colegio de la Frontera Sur (ECOSUR). The project uses the Plan Vivo carbon management system and sells carbon services in the form of Plan Vivo Certificates.

Scolel Té, along with other Plan Vivo projects, is notable for its work with low income farmers in marginal areas and for its ability to bring together smallholders and communities to deliver benefits in the rapidly evolving markets for environmental services.

### Message from the Trustees

During 2006 work was undertaken to strengthen relationships and areas of management within and around communities that had previously participated on a limited basis.

A second priority during the year was the testing and improvement of monitoring systems through the use of the independent verification agency SmartWood. This verification was aimed at improving the consistency and quality with which field data is collected, which ultimately determines the ability of the project to measure its long-term carbon benefits.

The project intends to continue to work with SmartWood and the Plan Vivo secretariat to improve its systems over the coming years.

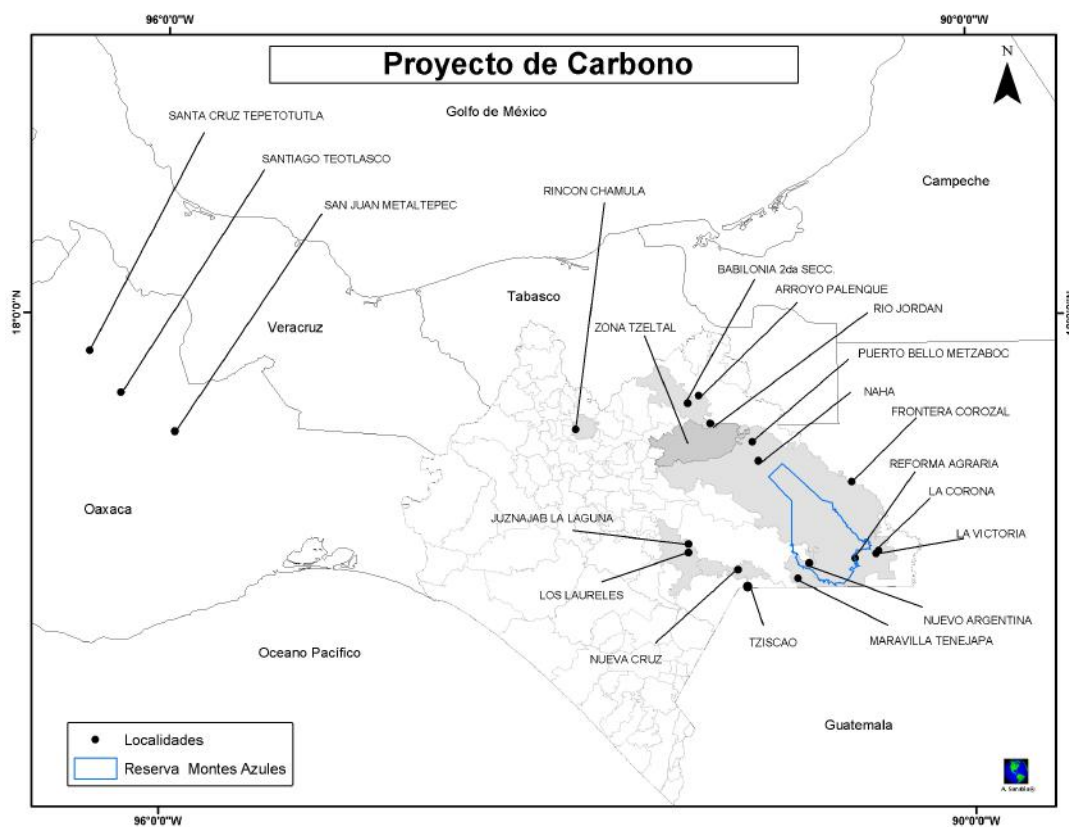
Another notable event this year was the approval of another Plan Vivo project: the N'hambita community carbon project in Mozambique. The Trustees and staff at Scolel Té welcome this development and hope that this will lead to co-operation and exchange of experiences in the near future.

Richard Tipper  
Trustee  
Fondo Bioclimatico

Elsa Esquivel  
Trustee  
Fondo Bioclimatico

## Community Participation

The maps show the current location of the projects activities. This year the focus has been on increasing the area under management in communities with existing participants.



Some communities have joined the scheme, and others have increased farmer participation significantly during 2006:

Community	Municipality	Ethnic Group	No. families	Observations
Rincón Chamula	Pueblo Nuevo Solistahuacan	Tzotzil	1000	Strengthening of commitments and improvement of management in communal forest area.
Babilonia 2da. sección	Palenque	Choles	8	New farmers & new areas
Babilonia 1ra. sección	Palenque	Choles	2	New farmers
Quiringuicharo	Marqués de Comillas	Mestizos	10	New farmers
Nueva Esperanza	Maravilla Tenajapa	Chol	5	New farmers and new areas
Nuevo Rodolfo Figueroa	Maravilla Tenajapa	Chol	5	New farmers and new areas
Plan de Rio Azul	Maravilla Tenajapa	Chol	1	New farmer
Naha	Ocosingo	Lacandon	1	New farmer
San Bartola Loxicha	San Bartola Loxicha	---	---	New community

It is important to note that at the time of reporting several areas being brought into management were not included in this table as monitoring had not been completed. These communities include - Frontera Corozal, Tziscac, Quiringuicharo and Zamora Pico de Oro.

### Reports from Trust Meetings

In 2006, biannual meetings were held on 14th January and 15th July. The main points of these meetings were as follows:

#### January meeting:

- Information and discussion regarding the administration, monitoring and technical support provided by the Project. In particular the process for allowing / facilitating new entrants.
- The need for the project to begin to produce its own seedlings was highlighted, and progress with community based nurseries and seed collection was noted.
- The availability of technical assistance for tree pruning and maintenance was noted.
- Collaborative research work with ECOSUR was discussed, in particular the possibility of developing new technical specifications for agroforestry systems.

### July meeting:

- Discussion relating to the inadequate completion of tree pruning and other maintenance work at several sites. It was emphasised that the main objective of hardwood tree plantations was to produce good quality timber. The value of this timber will depend upon the quality of maintenance work carried out. It was agreed that further communication in each community is needed.
- The level of training needed for field technicians was discussed. Further training is still required for tree selection, seed collection and pruning.
- Discussion relating to the timing of payments around year 10 and the economic viability of plantations from year 10 to the time of harvesting.
- It was noted that there is potential funding for around 230 fuelwood saving stoves. The only requirement for these stoves is that recipients agree to participate in data collection relating to the fuel savings obtained.
- 2007 will be the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Scolel Té as an operational project. It was suggested that there should be an event to commemorate this occasion.

## **Research in Scolel Té**

As a small pioneer project research is important to ensure that development is fulfilling its aims, and to monitor progress. During the last few years, a number of research projects have been carried out and have assisted in the improvement of the management and development of the technical activities involved in the Project.

This year, through ECOSUR, several BSc. and MSc. thesis have been produced. Topics covered include aspects of the growth, quality and management of several agroforestry systems (Coffee plantations, living hedges, and the taungya treeplanting system) which were established to enhance carbon sequestration. Estimates of carbon stored in the soil of these systems were also made. Concerning the social aspect of the project, an MSc and a PhD thesis have focused on quantifying the benefits that local communities have obtained from the implementation of agroforestry practices.

Through the National Forestry Commission (Comisión Nacional Forestal -CONAFOR) Program I+D (Research + Development), a “manual for the monitoring of carbon in agroforestry systems” has been written as a communication and technical tool for those interested in the implementation and technical assessment of similar projects.

## **Project development**

### **Training**

Initially, producers involved in Scolel Té were heavily reliant on Government nurseries to provide plants. However, it is increasingly difficult for the producers taking part in the project to get the number of trees required to comply with the programme from these government nurseries.

In order to achieve a self-sufficient supply of plants for the project, a process has been initiated to train farmers to collect seeds from the forest which can be propagated in communal nurseries to produce saplings. To accomplish this, a workshop was organised in March 2006 for community technicians in the Ejido La Corona from the Municipality of Marques de Comillas, along with the contribution of technicians from the following communities: Nuevo Rodolfo, Frontera Corozal, Samaria Kantajal y Alankantajal, Arroyo Palenque and also technicians from Marques de Comillas. During this workshop the forest species which are to be collected were identified. These species are of interest due to the quality of their wood and their potential uses. Suitable areas for seed collection, the time of collection and the individuals responsible for this activity were noted.

Since the training the following seeds have been collected:

- 8 Kg of maculis (*Tabebuia spp.*) in Plan de Río Azul
- 3 Kg of cedar (*Cedrus spp.*) in Nuevo Rodolfo
- 8 Kg of teak (*Tectona spp.*) in Arroyo Palenque
- 0.5 Kg of pine (*Pinus chiapensis*).



Seed Collection Planning



Description of the characteristics  
desired for seed collection



Training in tree climbing





Miguel, Technician of Samaria  
Kantajal (Tzeltal area)



Cones of *Pinus chiapensis*, endangered species

### Establishment of communal nurseries

The seeds collected were used to establish two communal nurseries, one in the community Arroyo Palenque, Municipality of Salto de Agua, which has the capacity to produce more than 20,000 plants, and the other in Samaria Kantajal, Municipality of Chilón. In Chilón where only 2,000 plants were grown, due to insufficient number of seeds. Producers who do not use seedlings from these nurseries can obtain specimens from natural regeneration occurring in nearby areas, however, if humidity is not adequate, these plants tend to exhibit a high mortality rate. Therefore, it has been planned to continue the promotion of plant production in nurseries. Plants grown were first distributed to those communities who were delayed in the compliance of their planting obligations since 2005. Among the beneficiaries were: two groups of Frontera Corozal, Babilonia 2a sección, Río Jordán, and the Tzeltal area.

Another communal nursery will be established shortly in the Ejido Rincón Chamela, Municipality of Pueblo Nuevo, for the production of pine (*Pinus chiapensis*) and alder (*Alnus spp.*), the latter to provide for firewood in the community.



Nursery in Arroyo Palenque, Municipality  
of Salto de Agua, Chiapas



Nicolás, communal technician in  
charge with the nursery in Arroyo  
Palenque.

This year, one of the main activities was to encourage the farmers to prune trees within in their plots. In particular progress was made by the producers of Arroyo Palenque, the community of the Tzeltal area and in Frontera Corozal. To overcome the reluctance of some of the producers to carry out these activities, pruning brigades were set up. These brigades demonstrate the benefits of pruning to their friends and neighbours by assisting them with the pruning to be done on their land.



Pruning activities carried out in different communities by Scolel Té communal technicians

### **Tree quality classification**

The classification of the trees growing in agroforestry systems according to their quality was initiated, which is especially important to ensure efficient use of trees more than five years old. The aim is to collect more information to help in the medium-term to carry out appropriate thinning and in the long-term, to assess the quantity of hardwood available for use.

Currently, more resources need to be invested in training to progress with these activities; principally to employ more communal technicians who could undertake tasks including classifying trees, organising workshops, and supervise activities in the field. This will be implemented at the beginning of 2007.



Tree quality marking, Jerónimo,  
communal technician,  
Tzeltal area



## **Monitoring**

The following communities were monitored before November 2006: Naha, Nueva Argentina, Plan de Río Azul, San Felipe Jataté, Nuevo Rodolfo Figueroa, Babilonia 1ª sección, Babilonia 2ª sección Río Jordán, Rincón Chamula, Yaluma and Los Laureles.

The following communities will be monitored between December 2006 and February 2007: Tzeltal area, Nueva Esperanza, Metzabok, Frontera Corozal.

## **Verification by Smartwood**

In October 2006, SmartWood employees carried out a verification of the monitoring protocol applied in Scolel Té, with the aim to assessing the systems and making recommendations to improve the transparency and quality of the project. The report confirmed that, carbon sequestration is being implemented according to the standards set up by the “Plan Vivo” carbon management system.

The recommendations will contribute to the current management plan which will focus on setting up priorities and detailing the steps to improve the training and the overall system.

## **Strengthening the project**

In the past, the activities and objectives which improve the carbon sequestration within the project area have been coupled with actions which directly or indirectly strengthen and support technical improvements and bring social benefits for the producers involved. Therefore, this year to add to these social benefits a project named “Management of fire in the ejido of Marqués de Comillas”, was developed and is aimed at the prevention of forest fires in the region. Fires are common, especially in the drier areas, and have the potential to devastate areas of young trees. Additionally, training was given for the management of livestock farming systems, and in October, a proposal was approved to install fuelwood saving stoves, which benefited 230 families of the Project in four regions within the State of Chiapas.

**Summary of carbon purchases between 1997 and 2006.**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Buyer</b>	<b>tC sold</b>	<b>Price in dollars per tC</b>
1997	FIA	5500	10.00
1998	FIA	5500	12.00
1999	FIA	5500	12.00
2000	Future Forest	1073	12.00
2000	FIA	5500	12.00
2001	Future Forest	500	12.00
2001	FIA	5500	12.00
2001	FIA	3297	11.68
2002	FIA	5500	12.00
2002	FIA	3297	11.68
2002	Future Forest	2500	13.00
2002	Future Forest	2000	13.00
2003	DFID-FRP	5.7	70.00
2003	World Bank	1215	18.33
2003	FIA	5500	12.00
2003	FIA	3297	11.68
2004	Future Forest	1909	14.00
2004	DFID- FRP	47.7	12.03
2004	World Bank	1215	18.00
2004	FIA	5500	12.00
2004	FIA	3296	12.00
2005	Key Travel	1	17 L
2005	Key Travel	6	16.5 L
2005	FIA	5500	13.00
2005	FIA	3297	13.00
2005	Banco Mundial	1215	18.00
2005	LLOYD	20.9	18.00
2006	TCNC	5455	16.50
2006	FIA	9420	13.00
2006	U&W	695	20.17
2006	TCNC	5455	16.50
2006	Peak Leaders UK	14.18	29.70
2006	University of Aberdeen	5.45	29.70
2006	U&W	5.18	29.70
2006	Key Travel	1.36	36.29
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>98743.47</b>	

**Operation expenses for the Project Scolel Té in 2006.**

<b>CONCEPTS</b>	<b>US Dollars</b>
<u>Wages</u>	
Administrative Director	12000
Technical coordinator	12000
Technician	3600
Social assessors	4800
Accounting	2400
Communal technicians	1200
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>36000</b>
<u>Operational expenses</u>	
Office, telephone, etc.	7800
Fuel and travel expenses	9000
Car/Van insurance	500
Car service and repair	500
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>17800</b>
<u>Biannual meetings</u>	
Miscellaneous meeting expenses	1000
Moderator	200
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1200</b>
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	
Bank commissions	1980
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1980</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>56, 980.00</b>

**Payments given to producers of *Scolet Té* in 2006\* for carbon sequestration**

<b>COMMUNITIES</b>	<b>US Dollars</b>
Zona Tzeltal	924.83
Rincón Chamula	7995.04
Arroyo Palenque y Río Jordán	377.64
Frontera Corozal	4367.78
Rodolfo Figueroa	770.4
Arroyo Palenque	435.2
Plan de Río Azul	747.36
La Victoria	285.12
Comunidades varias de la zona tzeltal	3853.62
Plan de Río Azul	138.24
Plan de Río Azul	285.12
Arroyo Palenque	194.51
Nueva Argentina	69.15
Nuevo Rodolfo Figueroa	110.56
Naha	144
Rincón Chamula	1000
Babilonia 1ra y 2da. Sección	790.88
Naha	4379.84
Zona Miramar	3399.36
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30,268.65</b>

\*Payments given between January and November 2006. Payments planned for December are not included.