

Accelerated Tree Planting / Reforestation to Reduce Existing Dangerous Climate Change

Intent:

March 5, 2020

On October 8th, 2018 IPCC's Special Report 1.5°C estimated the remaining carbon budget to be 420 gigatons of CO₂ to keep the planet below 1.5°C warming. This 420 gigaton amount primarily does not incorporate growing positive feedback loops / Climate Crisis accelerators. There is a consensus that dangerous climate change exceeds 350 ppm atmospheric CO₂, and current CO₂ level is 413 ppm and rapidly rising. A reduction in carbon of this magnitude requires ~\$14 trillion of financing towards green real estate and infrastructure (up 70 times since 2009). Various cities and States are codifying this report, e.g., New York, Washington State, Wash., DC, New York City. The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) concluded that both carbon reduction as well as carbon removal from the atmosphere will be necessary to maintain this budget; NAS also concluded bolstering natural systems through cessation of illegal logging and tree planting / reforestation are the top options for CO₂ removal, more so than inventing technologies. Tree planting has been adopted in various communities around the world, highlighted by Ethiopia reportedly planting more than 1 million trees in a week. Similarly, the Arbor Day Foundation has a tree planting initiative.

Structure + Community | Requirements (20 Points)

- This credit is assigned on a sliding scale, with various levels of tree planting / reforestation achieving point totals of: 5, 10, 15 & 20.
- Trees species for planting / reforestation must be identified by geographic location as species that will most easily adapt, have rigor for change in climate, and enhance the local natural system including watershed.
- Tree planting / reforestation need to exceed or be equivalent to the Arbor Day Foundation tree standards and procedures for properly handling, planting and caring for trees.
- Stewardship must be secured for the land containing the trees to ensure continuous conservation management, e.g., conservation easement.
- Natural systems, such as planting trees / reforestation, have been identified by NAS scientists as the most effective and cost efficient present day methodology of removing climate pollution from the atmosphere.
- Once a sufficient number of credits are achieved, they can be aggregated, securitized and sold to investors for which there is great demand, thus expected to greatly increase tree planting / reforestation globally.

Point Totals are commensurate with the accelerating systemic global risk of the Climate Crisis

- **20 Points:** 100,000 trees planted accredited to the RELi certified owner
- **15 Points:** 70,000 trees planted accredited to the RELi certified owner
- **10 Points:** 40,000 trees planted accredited to the RELi certified owner
- **5 Points:** 10,000 trees planted accredited to the RELi certified owner

**** Place this section BEFORE page 86, title heading "Use Legally Logged Wood from Ecologically Managed Forests," but AFTER the added "cessation of illegal logging globally," section. ****