



## **IAS 2013 Carbon Offset Programme Selected Projects**

At the 7<sup>th</sup> IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention, the conference organizers offer delegates the opportunity to offset their carbon emissions by ticking a box on the registration form.

All donations given by IAS 2013 conference delegates will support two different projects providing environmental, social and economic benefits.



## South Africa: IAS - Township NPO, moving cooperatives to sustainability

**Township NPO** is a Cape Town-based non-profit organization dedicated to the development of sustainable jobs for women from township communities primarily in the textile, fashion accessories-related sector. Today, Township NPO programs have resulted in the set-up of seven co-operatives employing 61



women. Each co-operative is a legally registered enterprise composed of 8 to 11 members and is fully autonomous in terms of its operations and management.

Aligned with values of social responsibility, development of sustainable business and environmental respect, Township® is deeply involved in this new way of living. As the company seeks to streamline their production and general business operations, it hopes to share these techniques with the cooperatives as well. Township NPO has taken care to do so through developing a monthly workshop schedule on a broad range of topics. As the women tend to be very in tune to what they need to grow, these topics have been informed by them and we continue to gauge feedback so that our information remains relevant to their needs. These topics range from subjects which focus on business development and personal development; namely nutrition & fitness, personal finance, etc. The organisation finds that helping to improve the individual along with the business is the key to success with the cooperatives.



Taking part in Maison & Objet, Paris Trade Show in September 2012 brought much needed recognition for the brand. Township was proud to receive the Best Discovery Award for the red zebra Megalo bag. This type of positive exposure attracted more

interest from the local fashion industry and prompted us to develop an offering to potential clients who sought to work with the sewing cooperatives. There has been much interest over the years to manufacture fashion items in the township; however few companies have had the capacity to do so. At present, Township NPO is developing this platform of assisting clients in access the cooperatives services through us as well as direct access to the cooperatives which is ideal for them. With the chance of having well known or established clients from the fashion industry requiring the services, this increases the promise of repeated business as well as giving much needed experience to add new items to their existing portfolios. It is an overall positive for the women and their business.

Thus far, two fashion labels have had their items manufactured through us: Lalesso Pichulik which have launched a vibrant and craft intensive range of late, and Mawu as a brand seeks to discourage the use of water bottle by providing their supporters a reusable stylish alternative. Township was more than happy to assist these brands in producing their products as our values aligned; that of handcraft and environmental respect. The ladies involved were able to develop new skills and add news goods to their portfolio. This type of interaction with the fashion industry creates great opportunity for skills development and expansion of the cooperative.



These two projects – developing our workshop schedule and client to cooperative platform- are crucial to moving closer to sustainability in terms of cooperative business as well as the positive ripple effect which the success of the cooperatives creates. Funding from the AIDS 2013 Carbon offset programme will assist with the training of the women to prepare for creating more complex fashion items; as well as enriching the workshops we already run with the expertise of industry leaders and necessary materials.

# Moving Mountains with Indigenous Penan Communities in Borneo

Sarawak, Borneo is the location of an exciting environmental and community development project partnership between **Moving Mountains Trust**, a small international development NGO, and KOPPES, a villages cooperative which we have helped five indigenous Penan communities to establish. We are working in collaboration to protect and enrich the rainforest through a tree planting programme which also promotes sustainable community development.

## Project Context

The indigenous Penan people have lived in harmony with the Sarawak rainforest for thousands of years. Over recent decades they have seen the rainforest come under increasingly severe threat, and in many areas decimated by mass logging and palm oil plantations, with profound consequences on their traditional way of life in harmony with the forest. The Penan communities are involved in a long-term process of non-violent resistance against this deforestation, trying to protect the forest, their human rights, traditional lands and way of life from the destruction of the logging companies.

## Project Summary

Working with KOPPES and the five Penan member communities we are planting around 10,000 native hardwood trees per year (Kapor, Meranti and other Shorea species) in damaged and cleared areas of the forest. Seeds are collected by local people from the rainforest during fruiting and planted in tree nurseries we have helped the communities to construct and which are managed by them. Once the saplings reach maturity in the nurseries they are replanted in the previously identified areas of the forest.

## Benefits of the Project

- 10,000 native trees planted each year in logged and cleared areas, helping to restore the forest and providing a carbon sink and habitat to native flora and fauna. (A small proportion of new trees planted also provide a source of wood for the communities to use, ensuring that the existing magnificent ancient forest is preserved).
- Community members are paid to collect seeds from the forest during fruiting and are paid to manage the tree nurseries. Income received from the project provides an alternative to employment offered by the logging companies whose actions are strongly opposed by the indigenous people and allows them to remain on their traditional lands to continue their opposition to the logging of the rainforest and protect it from destruction.

- The project is helping to protect an area which is extremely rich in biodiversity and rare fauna and flora. The project helps the Penan to maintain their homes in the forest, their traditional way of life in harmony with the rainforest and their rich cultural heritage.
- The tree planting programme attracts foreign visitors to the communities as part of a small scale eco-tourism initiative run through the cooperative, bringing additional income to the communities and helping to maintain their financial viability. Attraction of international visitors to the communities helps to raise awareness of deforestation and the Penan's struggle to protect the rainforest. The cooperative structure brings together disparate Penan communities, strengthening their campaign and organisational effectiveness and allowing new communities to join the project and expand the work as appropriate.