

## **CARBON FORESTRY IN AFRICA**

ANNE METTE LYKKE<sup>1</sup>; REDMOND SWEENEY<sup>1</sup>; ROBERT HARLEY<sup>2</sup>; WENDELIN AUBREY<sup>2</sup>; CHEIKH MBOW<sup>3</sup>; BIENVENU SAMBOU<sup>3</sup>

*1.AARHUS UNIVERSITY; 2.BIOCLIMATE R&D; 3.UNIVERSITY OF DAKAR.*

Carbon forestry in Africa has a potential for creating win-win-win situations, where increases in local people's income can go along with biological diversity and resilience as well as climate change mitigation. Carbon forestry is a term used to describe a variety of activities mainly involving afforestation, reforestation and natural regeneration as a means for reducing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> through carbon sequestration in woody biomass. Revenues from the sale of CO<sub>2</sub> credits support rural communities. The voluntary market, allows the purchase of carbon units by companies, government departments, NGOs and individuals with the aim of reducing emissions and displaying a sense of personal or corporate social responsibility. Standards within the voluntary market (e.g. Plan Vivo) ensure that the Voluntary Emission Reduction credits (VERs) traded meet certain international standards. The more flexible regulations and less stringent administrative demands make the voluntary market ideal for community level carbon forestry projects in contrast to carbon forests regulated by the Kyoto Protocol, which never were well-established in Africa. In order for carbon forests to contribute towards poverty alleviation, livelihood diversification as well as preservation of biodiversity and resilience, the selection of tree species is crucial. A change is recommended from the presently very common practice of planting (monocultures) of exotic species to a practice of planting or enhancing natural regeneration of a mixture of native and climate resistant species with multiple local uses.