

Carbon Offset Project Profile



COOKSTOVES IN DEVELOPING NATIONS

The Problem:

Nearly three billion people around the world burn wood, charcoal, animal dung, or coal in open fires or in inefficient stoves and without a chimney for daily cooking and heating. This reliance on inefficient cookstoves and fuels leads to a wide variety of environmental problems including deforestation, air pollution, climate change and health. Daily exposure to toxic smoke from traditional cooking practices is one of the world's biggest, but least well-known killers.

Penetrating deep into the lungs of its victims, this acrid smoke causes a range of deadly chronic and acute health effects such as pneumonia, lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and heart disease, as well as low birth-weights in children born to mothers whose pregnancies are spent breathing toxic fumes from traditional cookstoves. Women and children must risk their safety, health, and sometimes their lives, to search for and collect firewood in order to cook food over smoky, polluting open fires.

Demonstrating the health crisis associated with the use of traditional cookstoves, indoor air pollution accounts for some 20,000 deaths in Uganda every year, with those most at risk being women and children. 23% of children under 5 suffer from acute respiratory infection related disease, one of the leading causes of mortality in the region.



Key Facts:

Location: Peru, Uganda, Cambodia, China
Project type: Energy Efficiency Project
Project standard: Verified Carbon Standard & Gold Standard



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HOW DOES COOKSTOVES IN DEVELOPING NATIONS HELP SOLVE TO THESE PROBLEMS?

The Cookstoves in Developing Nations project disseminates efficient wood and charcoal cookstoves throughout to reduce dependency on traditional biomass fuels. By replacing traditional cookstoves with fuel efficient stoves in households and restaurants, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, relieves pressure on local forests and assists in reducing the incidence of chronic respiratory disease, improving livelihoods in poor communities.

Cookstoves in Developing Nations sources Verified Carbon Standard and Gold Standard carbon credits from the following locations:

- Peru
- Uganda
- Cambodia
- China

In Uganda, the improved cookstove technology has been found to reduce household fuel consumption by an average of 36%; providing greenhouse gas abatement of 1.53t CO₂e per year per family. While in Peru the Qori Q'oncha cookstove project has caused a reduction 2.5 tCO₂e and 1.9 tons of wood saved per family per year. The Cookstoves in Developing Nations project not only reduces emissions and deforestation but results in better health outcomes and has financially rewarded families with savings in money and time. The project also carries significant social benefit in the form of direct and indirect employment for enterprises, manufacturing, distributing, retailing, and maintaining the stoves.

The success of cookstove projects has created competition in the industry, resulting in the indirect creation of more jobs. Improved employment opportunities together with lower fuel costs for households are key to improving the livelihoods of poor community members. By decreasing the demand for fuel, the demand for natural forest resources is relieved, improving natural capacity for carbon sequestration as well as maintaining habitat for native wildlife.



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