

Saving Forests is good for Business

Winter 2016

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UNITED BANK OF CARBON



UBoC

UBoC is a not-for-profit collaboration between established, responsible businesses and environmental scientists, who together aim to reduce climate change by enhancing and protecting forests, woodlands, agroecology and green spaces around the world, while supporting the people who plant, care for, and benefit directly from them. Our mission is to enable businesses and organisations to demonstrate globally responsible practices by partnering with tailor-made conservation projects.

UBoC has relationships with a wide range of NGOs and community projects in tropical countries, seeking to conserve rainforests, plant new trees, produce food effectively, and help build sustainable communities with improved access to healthcare, education and water. In 2015, following suggestions from supporters, we extended our reach to temperate forests and woodlands, particularly in the UK, with a strong focus on productive urban green space and its use by corporate volunteers, schools, local communities and the general public.

UBoC builds collaborations between businesses and organisations which resonate with - and promote for competitive advantage as required - business values, brand values, and product, consumer and employee engagement strategies.

UBoC projects, and the science and business thinking that support them, are a unique resource for those seeking to demonstrate business leadership through relevant, long-term social investment in climate change mitigation - both locally and globally.

Partner News

UBoC founding partners, the **Bettys and Taylors Group**, have embarked on the next phase in their long term commitment to trees - a ten-year project in Kenya with TIST (The International Small Group Tree Planting Programme) and Natural Capital Partners. The project will plant 1 million trees around Mount Kenya, an area of strategic importance, and support the livelihoods of small scale farmers in tea growing communities by; providing them with diversified incomes through tree by-products (such as fruit and timber), increasing farm productivity via training on best agricultural techniques, and, ultimately, payments for the carbon their trees sequester. This sequestered carbon will contribute to BTG's long term aim of becoming a Carbon Neutral business.

Bodeker Scientific, a New Zealand atmospheric research group, have pledged to make all company travel carbon neutral by offsetting through UBoC. Their 2014 international conference encouraged delegates to offset. UBoC provided calculations and offsetting via a Plan Vivo project in Malawi called Trees for Hope.

Delta-ee, who specialise in decentralised energy, microgeneration, distributed generation, connected homes and energy services, also supported Trees for Hope via Plan Vivo.

Farnell Element 14 has partnered with Fauna and Flora International and the Tongwe Trust to provide solar fridges, for the storage of vaccines, and solar lighting kits in remote rural communities of the Mahale Mountains in Western Tanzania.



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To find out more about joining the **UBoC** community please get in touch:
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Partner News (continued)

Thanks to funds from **Lions Club International**, the Centre for Improved Rural Health and Environmental Protection (CIRHEP) are making great progress in India, planting seedlings at schools in the Tamil Nadu region. Eventually, a forest of 800,000 trees will protect dwindling water supplies as part of the Trees for Water Project.



Tree planting at a school in India (from CIRHEP)

UBoC Research

The first research paper directly funded by UBoC was published in Nature Geoscience in September. Dom Spracklen, Ed Butt and colleagues found that recent reductions in deforestation in Brazil have improved local air quality, saving up to 1700 lives per year.

New Look for UBoC Website

Our on-line presence has been revamped, with a new layout to make it easier to search through blogs and pages, and updated news from our many supporters and projects. (If you're one of these and have news to share, please let us know). We can also add you to the new interactive UBoC Map, which provides clickable links to the relevant page on our site. The background map also shows the world's ecological biomes, and how much carbon is stored in each.

LEAF Launch at UoL

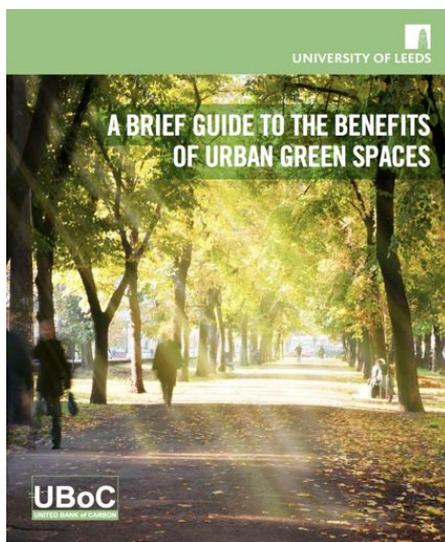
In close collaboration with UBoC, our academic partners at the University of Leeds have launched a new cross-faculty research centre: Leeds Ecosystem Atmosphere and Forest (LEAF).

This is designed to bring together everyone at UoL with a research interest in forests and woodland, including ecologists, atmospheric scientists, meteorologists and

specialists in the culture and history of woodlands. By linking researchers across faculties, LEAF aims to strengthen existing collaborations and encourage new inter-departmental partnerships, extending the breadth of research at the University. LEAF will also act as an inward portal, making it easier for NGOs, charities and businesses to find the best academics to contact for their research interests. This will ensure that University of Leeds' research has tangible and beneficial impacts on the world's forests and their communities.

Benefits of Green Spaces

In response to growing interest from local policy-makers and businesses, in October 2015 UBoC and LEAF produced "A Brief Guide to the Benefits of Urban Green Spaces." This is a handy and well-presented summary of current research thinking around the impacts and values of green infrastructure in UK towns and cities. The response from practitioners - planners, landscape architects and urban designers - was very positive, with the leaflet seen as a powerful tool in the struggle to protect and increase the greenery which makes our cities livable.



You can download the report at leaf.leeds.ac.uk/green-space

Leeds4Trees

Leeds4Trees is UBoC's major new initiative for 2015/6.

Working with LEAF and Leeds City Council, the team are developing several projects designed to enhance

and understand woodland and green spaces both within Leeds and overseas. These projects will raise vital funds for conservation, and provide educational resources for parks and tourist attractions around Leeds. The first two Leeds4Trees projects are especially innovative:

Forest Twins!

For the first time, UK woodland will be twinned with an area of ecologically important forest in the tropics. The Forest of Leeds, which comprises all the trees owned and managed by Leeds City Council, is being twinned with forests in the East Usambara Mountains in Tanzania.

The twinning will function at a variety of levels: As well as the forest-wide relationship, specific local projects will be twinned to help deliver improved communications, and a flow of benefits between the twins. For example, Leeds' popular tourist attraction Tropical World (a mini-zoo housing rainforest plants, animals and butterflies in Roundhay Park) will be twinned with the Amani Butterfly project in Tanzania, which will supply pupae for the butterfly house and fair trade products for the Leeds shop. Meanwhile, educational resources will be shared for the benefit of children (and adults) at both ends of the link.

Leeds Forest Observatory

A second feature of Leeds4Trees will be the establishment of the Leeds Forest Observatory (LFO) at Middleton Park in South Leeds. Establishing the LFO will allow long term monitoring and research to be conducted by students and staff from the University of Leeds, and the provision of educational materials for Middleton Park. The LFO will help researchers to find out more about the valuable ecosystems services provided by woodlands, and to better understand the way people benefit from using parks.

Team News

In October UBoC's Dr Dominick Spracklen was awarded a Philip Leverhulme Prize in recognition of his research in understanding interactions between the Earth's biosphere, atmosphere and climate, and the way that these are being altered by human activity.

In August, Tom Bliss, a corporate communications consultant and TV producer/director, who also teaches landscape architecture and urban design at Leeds Beckett University, joined UBoC as Project Co-ordinator.



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