

Carbon Credits from Native Forest Regeneration

Introduction

At EBEX21[®] we simplify the complex issue of carbon farming. With our one-stop solution we assist with the creation of your credits – offering advice, helping with the necessary paperwork and providing the required maps and diagrams – right through to selling the credits on your behalf.

Importantly, carbon credits produced through EBEX[™] have the highest levels of integrity, ensuring you get a consistently high price. Backed by over two decades of research into the regeneration of New Zealand native forests, we understand carbon sequestration, and can advise you on how best to develop shrubland into tall forest.

Our eight years of experience creating and selling the highest quality credits from regenerating native forest is unmatched in New Zealand.

What is EBEX?

EBEX (Emissions-Biodiversity Exchange 21st Century) is a Landcare Research service that enables you, a New Zealand landowner, to sell carbon credits from regenerating native forests to third parties.

We assess your sites for their potential to regenerate native forests, assist you to enter the Permanent Forest Sink Initiative (PFSI) so you can obtain Kyoto-compliant credits (Assigned Amount Units or AAUs), and help you manage your land to maximise carbon sequestration.

We sell your high quality credits to individuals and organisations that want to offset their unavoidable greenhouse gas emissions.

The benefits of EBEX

- You, the landowner, receive revenue from marginal farmland
- Carbon sequestration reduces New Zealand's net greenhouse gas emissions
- Native flora and fauna flourish
- Soil erosion is reduced
- Catchment water quality is improved

Can I use EBEX to get carbon credits from my regenerating native forest?

Your land is eligible if you can answer 'yes' to all of the following questions:

- 1) Is the land naturally regenerating into native species, and are there native seedlings in the pasture areas that could grow to 5 m in height?
- 2) Is the patch of land at least 100 ha (247 acres) in area?
- 3) Was the land in pasture or did it have less than 30% tree cover (include only trees that exceed 5 m in height at maturity, e.g. beech) at 31 December 1989? Eligible land could include pasture that had occasional scrubby bushes, or extensive patches of gorse, or broom with a few native plants underneath.

- 4) Are there patches of native bush within a kilometre of the patch of land?
- 5) Is the patch of land below the sub-alpine level?
- 6) Is the patch of land fenced off from stock or can stock be excluded by fencing or other means?
- 7) Are you prepared to seek a covenant to protect the regenerating forest in perpetuity?

If you answered 'yes' to all of the above questions, please contact us. If you answered 'no' to any of the above questions, the FAQs section of our website (www.ebex21.co.nz) will tell you why your land is not eligible. If you have an exotic forest, please contact MAF, Ph 0800 CLIMATE (254 6283) or visit its website: www.maf.govt.nz/sustainable-forestry/.

Some frequently asked questions

What are the steps for creating carbon credits?

Our website (www.ebex21.co.nz) has comprehensive information about the process that we will guide you through.

How do we sell carbon credits produced through EBEX?

Currently all our credits are sold through Landcare Research's carboNZero^{Cert™} Programme (www.carboNZero.co.nz). Organisations seek carboNZero certification by reducing their greenhouse gas emissions and then offsetting their remaining unavoidable emissions by purchasing carbon credits.

What is the PFSI and how does it relate to EBEX?

EBEX is a service that supports landowners from the point of carbon creation from native forest regeneration through to sale. The Permanent Forest Sink Initiative (PFSI) is the mechanism we use to make the carbon credits Kyoto Protocol-compliant. The PFSI (www.maf.govt.nz/forestry/pfsi/) is operated by MAF and promotes the establishment of permanent forests on previously unforested land. Through the PFSI landowners earn Kyoto Protocol-compliant emission units (Assigned Amount Units or AAUs) for carbon sequestered in permanent forests established after 1 January 1990. The PFSI requires a landowner to obtain a covenant on their land to guarantee the permanence of the stored carbon.

Why use natural regeneration as opposed to tree planting?

Natural regeneration is more cost-effective and suitable for reforesting large areas of land – we have measured up to 60,000 tree stems per hectare in naturally regenerating forests! We believe that forest restoration through planting is a good idea but at present little accurate information is available on how much carbon is stored per hectare of restoration or revegetation planting. We have much better data on the amount of carbon stored long term in naturally regenerated stands, which makes the carbon credits produced through EBEX far more credible. If you are involved in a tree-planting scheme, you may be able to get financial assistance from the Afforestation Grant Scheme (AGS) www.maf.govt.nz/climatechange/forestry/initiatives/ags/.

How much CO₂ will my naturally regenerating native forest absorb?

This has been estimated for a range of regenerating forest types in New Zealand and also varies with local conditions such as species mixture, temperature and rainfall. On average, across many mixtures and a range of localities the PFSI uses a default sequestration rate of 3 tonnes CO₂e/ha/yr to set the level of AAU allocation. Many locations are expected to sequester CO₂ at a higher rate than this but a plot-based measurement at the site would be required to confirm the actual rate of sequestration. As of September 2009, this is not an option under the PFSI.

What are the costs and potential returns for creating and selling EBEX carbon credits?

The value of carbon credits will fluctuate with supply and demand. Our website (www.ebex21.co.nz) has a current example of costs and returns over five years.

Contact EBEX21

For further information, please visit our website (www.ebex21.co.nz) or contact us: Email: ebex21@landcareresearch.co.nz Phone (03) 321 9654