



DAINTREE DISCOVERY CENTRE

CARBON OFFSET BIO-SEQUESTRATION PROJECT

Helping to save the planet!

At the Daintree Discovery Centre we are concerned about the environmental, social and economic values of the land and the community in which we live and work. We are committed to fostering educational enlightenment, environmental interpretation and the conservation of the unique bio-diversity of the Daintree Rainforest. Central to our environmental program is an ongoing commitment to reduce and neutralize the impact of carbon emissions. DDC's carbon footprint has been audited and strategies developed to avoid, reduce and finally offset CO₂ emissions by bio-sequestration.



MEASURING CARBON FOOTPRINT:

Independent accredited CO₂ emission accounting practices were used to identify current and projected Carbon Footprint(s).

EDUCATION: Providing timely information about environmental sustainability in an entertaining way, using a variety of media.

TREE PLANTING: Active participation in community re-vegetation programs that sequester carbon from the atmosphere caused by energy and transportation use.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT: Part of all entry fees to the Daintree Discovery Centre are dedicated to the preservation and re-vegetation of the rainforest.

BEST PRACTICE: In carbon accounting practices, bio-sequestration technologies and plant husbandry to reduce habitat loss, land degradation and control exotic pests.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM: Involves the promotion of sustainable tourism practices, including the preservation of habitat and wildlife corridors (especially cassowary corridors) via eco-friendly elevated walk ways, ergonomically efficient buildings, environmentally sensitive waste water systems and efficient recycling programs.



BEING COST EFFECTIVE: Cost efficient operational procedures and democratic, self sustaining management practices support the DDC Bio-sequestration Program.

MAINTAINING BIO-DIVERSITY: This is a key component of the DDC Carbon Offset Program. The canopy is preserved ie no clearing of trees, no flora or fauna are introduced or removed. No toxic chemicals are used.



BIO-SEQUESTRATION PROJECT:

Bio-sequestration soaks up green house gases (GHG). It has potential to reduce CO₂ already released into the atmosphere through photosynthesis. Benefits include: increasing bio-diversity, protection of flora and fauna, habitat recovery, salinity and erosion control. Source: Greenfleet Australia.

To achieve these goals we will continue to:

- Monitor and audit our carbon footprint and reduce, recycle and reuse to minimize CO₂
- Work in conjunction with local action groups ie the Cassowary Care Group and Rainforest Rescue to preserve, protect and rehabilitate degraded areas of the rainforest.
- Facilitate cohesive community interaction. School children are encouraged to collect seeds and propagate plants.
- Focus site selection on protecting the bio-diversity, providing safe habitat for native species, preserving wildlife corridors, helping reverse any decline in cassowary numbers.
- Ensure bio-sequestration seedlings are grown from indigenous seeds of known provenance, collected as close as practicable to the site being re-vegetated.
- Plant species that grow to a height, taller than 2m, in line with the Carbon Accounting System guidelines, developed by the Australian Greenhouse Office.
- Use independent auditors and accredited carbon offset accounting practices to ensure the viability and credibility of the project.
- Provide NJFP (Not Just For Profit) support for, and ethical investments in revegetation action groups such as Rainforest Rescue.
- Sponsor long term research groups ie \$60,000 for JCU Carbon Flux Project.
- Maintain our status as a carbon neutral site by ensuring we exceed our tree planting quota as defined by independent audits.
- Promote the Daintree Discovery Centre as a carbon neutral, ecologically sustainable ecotourism facility that offers responsible nature based experiences for people of all ages, nationalities and interests.
- Share our knowledge and experiences with others so that they might benefit from what we have learned. By visiting the Daintree Discovery Centre your entry fee will be helping to save the planet!