



IAS 2009 Carbon Offset Programme - Selected Projects:

At the 5th Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention Conference, the International AIDS Society offered delegates the opportunity to offset their flight carbon emission by ticking a box on the registration form.

Thanks to the generous donations of IAS 2009 conference delegates and the IAS' social responsibility initiative which consists in offsetting all IAS 2009 staff flights, the IAS has been able to support two different projects combining environmental, economical and social benefits.

South Africa: Cape Town women's cooperatives - Township Patterns (IAS 2009 delegate bags supplier)

In partnership with independent cooperatives in Cape Town townships, *Township Patterns* designs, produces and markets a range of eco-friendly products. Their main objective is the empowerment of women in the Cape Town suburbs and the development of autonomous business. For IAS 2009, they were chosen amongst many bidders to supply the conference bags; the IAS also decided to support them through its carbon offset programme:

- **Environmental benefits:** reduction of CO₂ generated for production and transportation of bags, use of local products and eco-friendly textiles;
- **Economic and social benefits:** consolidation of micro-companies, empowerment of township women, local jobs creation, construction of independent commercial networks.



"Back in September 2009, a group of nine women from the community of Manenberg outside Cape Town was facing a very difficult challenge. Although they had started to work with social enterprise, Township Patterns very successfully for more than two months, at the beginning of October, they suddenly had to give back all the industrial machines they were using as no agreement could be reached with the community organisation which was supposed to support them. At that time, Township Non-Profit did not have the cash readily available to buy new machines and the women realised it would take a long time before they could re-start working and earning money. And then, one evening, a call from IAS, Geneva brought smiles on all faces: a R100,000 grant to Township Non-Profit had been agreed by the IAS Foundation and even more extraordinary, the money was transferred the very same day to South Africa. Thanks to this generous donation; Township Non-Profit was able to immediately buy the necessary equipment for the group, get the process started for the Cooperative registration and three months down the road, the vibrant Saambou Sewing Cooperative is very proud to report that they are making continuous progress towards becoming one of the strongest cooperatives of the township network. They generate an income of over R 25,000 per month and are very pleased to have received last week their official registration documents from the Department of Trade & Industry. Thank you to IAS!" Christophe Labesse, Township Patterns

Cambodia: Improved cookstoves construction & diffusion – Action Carbone

In partnership with Geres, an association active in the implementation of development projects in the field of environment and renewable energies, Action Carbone now promotes a rational and efficient use of fuel-wood through the construction and diffusion of improved cookstoves:

- **Environmental benefits:** reduction of GHG related to a better energy efficiency (at least 60 000 tons of CO₂ per year), less suspended particles;
- **Economic and social benefits:** consolidation of micro-companies, improved living conditions, local jobs creation, construction of commercial networks.

