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1. Institutional Determinants of Economic and Social Viability among Forestry-Based Carbon Sequestration Projects in Sub-Saharan Africa................................................................................................................................. 1
Institutional Determinants of Economic and Social Viability among Forestry-Based Carbon Sequestration Projects in Sub-Saharan Africa

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Abstract: Since the early 1990s it has been possible for project developers to sell carbon dioxide emissions offsets, also known as "emissions reductions" or "carbon credits," generated through reforestation initiatives in low income countries. Making this new international market possible has entailed the creation of a diverse set of institutional structures for the production, verification and sale of forestry-based carbon offsets. Early forest carbon sequestration projects varied dramatically not only in size and scope, but also in management structure, membership, and in mechanisms for distributing project costs and benefits. Today, contrary to some theoretical expectations, many of these various institutional forms continue to function, all achieving similar programmatic objectives (the durable sequestration of carbon in growing forests) but by very different means. This dissertation uses economic and institutional theories to examine the emergence, structure and performance of forestry-based carbon sequestration initiatives ("carbon forestry") in Sub-Saharan Africa. The first chapter frames carbon forestry in developing countries as a collective action problem, using economic and institutional theories to illustrate how effective carbon forestry projects require not only monetary incentives for storing carbon in trees, but also the existence (or creation) of rules and common expectations of behavior surrounding the use of shared forest resources. The second chapter further contributes to the debate on the economic and social implications of international carbon forestry through a study of the emergence and organizational structure of 42 programs in Sub-Saharan Africa using carbon offset payments to fund tree-planting activities. The third chapter considers the role of collaboration in international carbon forestry programs, examining how three key large-scale carbon forestry institutions employ or eschew inclusive, voluntary and consensus-based approaches to natural resources management in their projects in rural Africa. The final chapter uses event-history analysis to investigate the impacts of environmental constraints and community characteristics on tree-planting outcomes among groups of land-users engaged in multi-stakeholder carbon forestry projects in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Copies of dissertations may be obtained by addressing your request to ProQuest, 789 E. Eisenhower Parkway, P.O. Box 1346, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1346. Telephone 1-800-521-3042; e-mail: disspub@umi.com

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