Objectives of the Project

1. To develop scientific knowledge and capacity for quantifying the greenhouse gas emissions from the tourism sector
2. To develop plans and policies to mitigate the greenhouse gas emissions
3. To provide opportunities for creation of decent and green jobs for men and women working in tourism sector, particularly the low income groups
4. To provide a public forum for community learning and publication

Activities of the Project

Some of the planned activities during January – November 2012 are:

1. Calculate the GHG emissions related to tourism sector in Chiang Mai Municipality by using Bilan Carbone® Tool
2. Prioritize potential mitigation options on the basis of GHG emission inventory of the tourism sector
3. Identify income generation, job opportunities and effect on gender equality for the GHG emission mitigation options
4. Develop sustainable urban environmental policies and plans towards achieving pro-poor and gender-responsive tourism sector

The activities will be carried out in consultation with local partners, such as, Chiang Mai provincial Office of Tourism and Sport, Chiang Mai Guide Association and etc., and with AIT and Hue city in Vietnam.

Expected Results

1. Reduced the green house gas emission from the direct and indirect activities of tourism sector
2. Increased opportunities for gender responsive green and decent jobs in low income group communities
3. Increased participation of communities in policy making process

Sustainable Urban Tourism through Low Carbon Initiatives experience from Hue and Chiang Mai
**Background**

Many activities related to tourism have negative impact to the environment due to release of air emissions, solid waste and wastewater disposal. These affect the quality of the environment either directly, indirectly, or in short-term and long-term.

Chiang Mai municipality of Thailand and Hue city of Vietnam are one of the growing urban areas that have been attracting tourists each year due to its natural and cultural resources. One of the major negative impacts of the growing tourism in these areas is the emission of greenhouse gases thereby causing global warming and ultimately climate change. There is urgent need to study and research the quantity and areas of tourism sector that have the most carbon emission so that the policies can be developed to mitigate impacts and to manage the urban tourism sector for its sustainable growth.

The city mayor of Chiang Mai municipality, Mr. Tussanai Buranuprakorn, has expressed his commitment for such study and thus has assigned public work bureau of Chiang Mai municipality to cooperate with the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) and Hue City of Vietnam to undertake such research. The research is sponsored by the Sustainable Mekong Research Network (Summer) and the Climate Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) under the research theme ‘Sustainable Urban Tourism through Low Carbon Initiative: experience from Hue and Chiang Mai’. The research will also look at the opportunities for generating gender responsive green and decent jobs in the tourism sector especially for the urban poor groups. The results of the research will contribute in developing sustainable urban tourism policies and at the same time also enhance the image of Chiang Mai as a sustainable and environment friendly destination in the global forum.