

## **QFPC Press release - long**

The QFPC is a premium carbon credit, because it is not only the most cost-effective way of curbing climate change,[1] but the QFPC carbon credits also improve the social-, and environmental situation in numerous areas, which all contribute to the sustainable development of communities. Sustainability means that the ecological footprint of a given community or society is not larger than the available area. This could even be exceeded by a society that consciously recycles, uses renewable energy, and relies on organic agriculture, if its population grows too large.

Today, three-quarters of the world's countries exceeds their carrying capacity.[2] Meanwhile, global population keeps rising, although almost half of the pregnancies, and one-quarter of births are not even wanted by the parents.[3] Through the prevention of unintended births, we also negate the remaining 40% of the ecological footprint beyond the carbon footprint,[4] which entails easing in numerous fields of environmental protection (e.g. less toxic substances and pollutants get into the biosphere, and overexertion decreases in the fields of biodiversity, soils, water bodies, infrastructure, energy, etc.). The ecologic footprint consists of six components, and globally, the lionshare of them is the carbon footprint (60%). The other are fisheries, built-up land, cropland, pastures, and forests. If the activity behind a carbon credit is directed at preventing the unintended pregnancies and births, then from an ecological viewpoint, that carbon credit is much more effective than the rest, as a child otherwise unwanted by the parents would not only have a carbon footprint, but would also put strain on the other natural resources. However, in an ecologically more stable country, business opportunities are better, since people don't have to focus on mere survival.

Besides preventing the unwanted births, provision of family planning opportunities also helps to prevent a lot of abortions, miscarriages, maternal and infant deaths, while maternal and infant health is improved at the same time. Today, globally, about 214 million fertile wives have no opportunity for contraception. All the while, contraception is a lifesaving medication, and general easy access to it would lower the number of mothers that die in childbirth by 76 per thousand.[3] The lack of family planning opportunities is not only about the lack of means, but also, women might not have the right or the knowledge to use them, or the socioeconomic structure they live in might not make them accessible or affordable. It is also common that although women may access contraceptives in a given region, but due to the lack of knowledge, misconceptions and gossip spreads about them causing infertility or various diseases, which results in women disusing the otherwise available contraceptive methods. Persuasion of policy makers and media personnel, making budget spending more efficient, technical development, liberation of women, starting movements, changing the mentality of education and healthcare etc. all promote that only prepared couples conceive children, as a responsible decision. And children being born in such a prepared, loving family will likely get a better education, and will be mentally and physically more healthy, which also means that they will grow up to become better workforce. Besides this, even the parents will be better workforce, as they will not be hindered by looking after otherwise unwanted children.

For the society, this means that fewer children and overburdened parents suffer from psychological trauma and stress, crime rates drop and the occurrence of violent conflicts

decreases, public safety improves, poverty decreases, as well as gender inequality, while more girls are able to study and acquire an income. Not only that, but this also contributes to world peace! The cause behind wars has usually been the touching of ecological footprints of different peoples. Population growth forces overcrowded societies to expand, and to fight for natural resources that are thus becoming ever more scarce. However, suppression of the population explosion contributes to stopping the increase of ecological footprint of societies, and to attenuating their hunger for resources, which helps to ease tensions between countries. And peace is also good for business.

Since the provision of family planning opportunities is by far the most effective way of curbing climate change, from an economic standpoint, QFPC is the most reasonable choice of all the carbon credits. On top of that, the slowing of population explosion eases the budgetary burden of public health, education, social safety net, infrastructure, law enforcement, environmental protection, etc.[5] This way, more may be spent on other expenditures, which means that the country is more prepared for the global challenges to come. And of course, a more stable country means more stable companies.

[1] Seth Wynes and Kimberly A. Nicholas. „**The climate mitigation gap: education and government recommendations miss the most effective individual actions**” Environmental Research Letters 12 (2017) 074024

[2] [http://www.footprintnetwork.org/content/documents/ecological\\_footprint\\_nations/](http://www.footprintnetwork.org/content/documents/ecological_footprint_nations/)

[3] <https://www.gutmacher.org/fact-sheet/adding-it-up-contraception-mnh-2017>

[4] <https://www.footprintnetwork.org/resources/data/>

[5] <https://www.gatesfoundation.org/What-We-Do/Global-Development/Family-Planning>