

Pangia prepares for carbon trade

By FRANCIS POKA

PANGIA timber resources owners in the Southern Highlands province have embarked on early preparations to trade their vast forest resources for carbon trade credits and benefits.

This follows the launching last Saturday of a local landowner company called Tiyebo and Associates Tribes of East Pangia Ltd at the remote Apenda village in East Pangia. The launch was witnessed by more than 6,000 people and representatives of international carbon trade broker and developer Nupan PNG Trading Corporation Ltd. Tiyebo & Associates would act as catalyst for the 274 incorporated landowner groups (ILGs) from the East Pangia Forest Management (FMA) Area to part take in the carbon credit trade project.

Mr Timothy Tepi, managing director of Tiyebo and Associates said the ILGs and people in the East Pangia FMA area want to bid for the carbon trade credits through reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degrading (REDD) programme. He said it is the first carbon credit project to be launched which would now pave way for developers and the government to recognize and fast track in funding the East Pangia carbon credit project to start as soon as possible. The launching is also believed to be the first in the province and country.

Mr Tepi said under the project, the 48,000 plus people of East Pangia including those living in the far-



Managing Director for Tiyebo and Associates Tribes of East Pangia Ltd Timothy Tepi (right) flanked by Nupan PNG Trading Corporation company managing director Robert Kirks William (middle) and Nupan country facilitator James Kond (left) walking towards the grand stand to officially launch the carbon trade project with the 274 ILGs of East Pangia FMA last Saturday at Apenda village in Pangia, Southern Highlands province. Picture by FRANCIS POKA

flung areas would benefit from spin-offs and basic services generated in exchange for their forest resources. Mr Tepi who is a local man said Tiyebo and Associates that represent the 274 ILGs of East Pangia has declared and transferred all powers to develop their forest through carbon trade credits with international broker and developer Nupan PNG Trading Corporation Ltd company.

He said Nupan PNG would trade carbon credits for the East Pangia FMA that covers 100,400 hectares of land with thick forests.

Mr Tepi said the Pangia people have no other resources to improve their livelihood or for government services to come into their area thus they are now counting on their timber resources. He said with the break away of the new Hela province

together with their rich oil and gas deposits, there was no way the Pangia people would benefit even from the multi-billion kina PNG LNG project. Mr Tepi said as such, the landowners and locals in East Pangia FMA have now decided that their future depended entirely on their timber for carbon trade credits to support them in revenue generation to sustain their living.

Mr Tepi said with the growing problem of global warming and climate changes affecting many countries through out the world, their forest is of great importance to supply oxygen for people world-wide. He said the carbon trading projects is also on 'voluntarily market' on the United Nations Frame Work Structure so he also appealed to local MP Peter O'Neil and the SHP Governor Anderson Agiru to give their support for carbon trade so that the people of Pangia would benefit. The public can click onto the website address www.carbonwantok.org, to find further information on their project, which would be updated daily. Mr James Kond, country facilitator for Nupan PNG commented that the East Pangia people are the luckiest people to launch the carbon trade. Mr Kond thanked the people for having confidence and engaging Nupan PNG to develop their carbon trade project. He said the carbon trade project is new to the country and he asked the people to wait patiently for Napun PNG Ltd to develop the project now that the 'green light' is given by them. Nupan PNG Ltd managing director Robert Kirks William thanked Tiyebo and Associate Tribes, Mr Tepi, the 274 ILGs, their chairman and everyone involved for mandating his company to start work on their carbon trade project. Several attempts yesterday to speak to the Office of Climate Change in Port Moresby on this project were unsuccessful.