

Carbon-offsetting and SCCS

As conservationists we're all concerned about climate change, but because we travel our greenhouse gas emissions are more than most.

Starting in 2012 we reduced the environmental impact of SCCS by offsetting the emissions of every delegate's journey to the meeting through an initiative called Elemental Equity (<http://elementalequity.org>). They invested our delegates' payments in a remarkable project in the Baviaanskloof Mega-Reserve, South Africa, which has restored carbon-hungry thicket vegetation to an area degraded by decades of overstocking with goats.

The Baviaanskloof initiative is running out of space, but we've now teamed up with a related project in the Gouritz Cluster Biosphere Reserve (www.gouritz.com), in the Little Karoo. Their restoration work not only soaks up CO₂ but recreates valuable wildlife habitat, protects the soil, and provides badly needed jobs for a poor rural community.

Cambridge
March 2015