TRAINING THE WORKFORCE TO SOLVE CLIMATE CHANGE

THE CAPACITY GAP
A central element of the Paris Agreement is for countries to regularly and accurately take stock of their greenhouse gas sources and sinks. Yet three years after its entry into force, there still exists a significant disconnect between ambition and implementation. Even with unprecedented political will to combat climate change, the current institutions and workforces in many countries cannot fully implement the Paris Agreement as intended.

CLOSING THE GAP
Developing additional capacity for GHG inventories helps countries efficiently meet NDC targets, further increase ambition, and receive results-based finance from REDD+. International capacity-building efforts to date often defaulted to discrete initiatives revolving around short workshops with significant foreign expert roles. Closing this ambition gap requires a structural shift toward novel and innovative strategies of more permanent country-owned technical training in GHG measurement.

OUR WORK
To meet this challenge, The Carbon Institute has made a long-term commitment to building institutionalized GHG measurement capacity through supporting faculty in establishing terrestrial carbon accounting certificate programs. Self-sustaining, solution-oriented professional training courses use teaching best practices, shared curricula, faculty mentoring, and active learning modules. Carbon Institute programs graduate professional workforces with technical skills to measure land use emissions and contribute to the UNFCCC expert review process.

SUSTAINABLE CAPACITY
Investing in carbon accounting faculty in teaching centers builds long-term capacity and a new generation of carbon professionals. The Carbon Institute trains world-class experts in measuring natural carbon stocks without being reliant on continuous foreign consultants or support. Our model invests in the long-term success of a country’s workforce, educational systems, and national climate ambition by empowering academic institutions that sustain and grow human capacity.
The Carbon Institute's courses in China are a model for building terrestrial carbon accounting (TCA) capacity in countries with considerable existing technical expertise in geosciences. Since these resources were scattered across departments in government and research sectors, The Carbon Institute helped partners build a curriculum based on input from government, researchers, and land use experts. The result: a locally taught program in comprehensive TCA that new national partners plan to fund for the next five years, creating hundreds more experts in natural climate change solutions.

“The Carbon Institute has great potential to act as a coordinator between researchers, governments, and civilians in different countries. This program will build our capacity in training individuals in terrestrial carbon accounting, allow us to share knowledge and experience, and enhance international cooperation in climate change mitigation and forestry management.”

— Gao Xianlian, Division Director, Forest Carbon Accounting and Management Center (FCAMC), State Forestry Administration (SFA)

The work between The Carbon Institute and SFA is like a bridge between developed and developing countries in terrestrial carbon accounting. SFA is learning from the experiences of developed countries, training more people to work in carbon accounting, and expanding the concept of low carbon societies to civilians.

— Liu Yingchun, Research Scientist, FCAMC, SFA