



### Contribution to Sustainable Development

The use of an indigenous and cleaner source of electricity will also contribute to environmental sustainability by avoiding electricity generation from imported fossil fuel sources – and reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) – which would be generated in the absence of the project. The estimate of total annual average GHG emission reductions for the second crediting period is 150,171 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

A better income distribution in the region where the Project Activity is carried out will come from less expenditure and more income in local municipalities. The additional regional income may be used for providing the population with better services, which would improve the coverage of basic needs. The project is in line with the national sustainable energy strategies and climate change mitigation principles (from MARN, 1999, “*sustainable exploration of geothermal and hydro resources*”). This is the one of the reasons why the project has received all needed government support and endorsement regarding the participation in the CDM since the phase of feasibility study.

Economical and/or strategic benefits include the decrease in dependence on fossil fuels, an exogenous and environmentally unsustainable source of energy. The Project Activity includes a biodiversity inventory research project to be done by the National University of El Salvador and a conservation and reforestation program in areas surrounding the plant.

The Berlin Geothermal Power Plant has a community engagement program aimed to create a balanced and constructive environment with neighbouring municipalities of Berlin. The fundamental elements of the program, used to maximize benefits to the community, are the generation of local employment opportunities, social investment activities, development of sustainable small businesses, and protection of the local environment. An indirect benefit is the construction and maintenance of road infrastructure that ensures communication and commercial activities in the surroundings of the project site.