

MEDIA RELEASE

Southern Africa takes REDD to new heights

Zurich, Switzerland and Harare, Zimbabwe, 20th February 2012 - Zimbabwe's first REDD project, Kariba REDD+⁽¹⁾, owned by the communities living in four rural districts in northwestern Zimbabwe, has been registered with the CCB Standards at Gold Level⁽²⁾. Carbon Green Africa and South Pole Carbon Asset Management Ltd, the project developers, have assisted the councils in this achievement.

The Project, a local community-generated project, aims to protect a vast and vital ecosystem at Lake Kariba (Zimbabwe) and its surrounding forests and communities from deforestation. Deforestation is driven by the expansion of slash and burn agriculture, firewood collection and the spread of wildfires. Global deforestation accounts for 17% of all global carbon emissions. Zimbabwe is the country with the 9th highest deforestation rate of the world⁽³⁾, losing more than 1.7% of its forests every year.

The activities reducing deforestation, who have been launched already, include:

- Introduction and support of conservation agriculture to increase agricultural productivity
- Sustainable honey production to directly attribute a financial value to standing, living trees and to provide alternative cash flows
- Education and awareness campaigns supported by forest guards
- Fire prevention and management
- Alternative, low-emission brick making production methods

The livelihood of about 900'000 people living in the project area will be improved directly through the above highlighted activities. Environment Africa, a Zimbabwe based NGO with a long track record in the project area, will support the implementation of the activities.

The project area hosts the highly endangered African wild dogs, and contains many individuals of vulnerable species, such as African elephant and Lion. It also aims to provide connectivity for wildlife between several National Parks (Matusadona, Chizarira and Mana Pools National Park and several game reserves.) The project activity will lead to a significant improvement of these endangered species' habitats.

In total, the project area covers an area of over a million hectares. It aims to withhold 3'000'000 tCO₂e of carbon emission from the atmosphere within the next five years and is currently undergoing VCS validation and registration applying VCS methodology VM0009, which is expected in the second semester of 2012.

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(pictures: deforestation baseline, endangered African elephants' habitat)

Information

The Media Release and the image material are available from:
www.southpolecarbon.com > News & Press > 2012

(1) Kariba REDD+: Kariba: The project helps preserve a vast and vital ecosystem surrounding the southern shorelines of Lake Kariba in Zimbabwe and its surrounding forests and communities.

REDD+: Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation. The + stands for REDD and additional enhancement of carbon stocks in non-carbon benefits such as biodiversity and social benefits.

(2) CCB Standards at Gold Level: http://www.climate-standards.org/projects/#kariba_redd

(3) <http://www.mapsofworld.com/world-top-ten/countries-with-highest-deforestation-map.html>

LINKS:

Carbon Green Africa: www.carbongreenafrica.net

Environment Africa: www.environmentafrica.org

South Pole Carbon: <http://www.southpolecarbon.com>

About Carbon Green Africa

Carbon Green Investments (CGI) is a Guernsey based company established to facilitate the generation of Carbon Credits through validating REDD projects in Zimbabwe, through its local team and network of partners. CGI's core competency is having the capability to enable successful conservation projects according to the rules of the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) and the Community, Climate and Biodiversity Standard (CCBS) at Gold Level, and whilst also being able to make the project financially viable for all parties involved.

About South Pole Carbon Asset Management Ltd.

Founded in 2006, South Pole Carbon is one of the world's leading companies specialising in the reduction of emissions, and the market leader for sought-after Gold Standard certificates. With ten offices around the globe, the company enables the implementation and operation of transparent and sustainable high-quality emission reduction projects in twenty countries. These also significantly contribute towards sustainable development in threshold and developing countries. All projects are certified in accordance with recognised standards such as the Gold Standard by independent third parties such as TÜV or SGS. In 2011, the Zurich company was voted "Best Project Developer" in the *Voluntary Carbon Markets Survey* of the specialist magazine *Environmental Finance*.