

The Experience of our Company

The Uganda Carbon Bureau was registered in April 2006, and is the only full-service carbon finance company in Uganda.

The Bureau provides professional support to project developers, carbon credit buyers, development agencies, financiers and the public with all aspects of project funding and carbon asset development, while also ensuring that biodiversity and social impacts are carefully treated in projects developed in the voluntary and compliance carbon markets. The Bureau has advised, amongst others, the Mukwano Group and Uganda's National Water & Sewerage Corporation on their carbon-related activities.

The Bureau supplies carbon credits from Ugandan projects, for use by Ugandan companies, organisations, individuals and event managers in their achievement of a 'carbon neutral' status. The first such company (Classic Africa Safaris) was certified by the Bureau in 2009, and carbon offset credits were purchased for them from the Bushenyi Plan Vivo project. The Bureau provides information about climate change and the carbon markets to a wide audience.

The Bureau's founder has worked in Uganda for 12 years and has had a continuous involvement with the development of Uganda's participation in the growing carbon markets. He also led the technical team that undertook the internationally acclaimed reform of Uganda's forest sector, and has worked as a EU-funded adviser with the Private Sector Foundation Uganda and the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA).

In September 1999 he arranged for UWA's pioneering carbon tree-planting projects to be showcased at the first Consultative Meeting on Uganda's Forests. Thereafter, he initiated the Bushenyi Plan Vivo carbon finance scheme in western Uganda as the first voluntary carbon market project for smallholder tree farmers in Uganda.

The Bureau is now involved in a wide range of projects across the energy, forestry and allied fields involving either emissions reductions or carbon sequestration. The largest assignment to date has been the refinancing and carbon finance support for two hydro power projects totalling some \$80m, which has formed the basis for the Bureau's current hydro work in Uganda and Rwanda, and the planning of a CDM Programme of Activities (PoA) for hydro and other renewable energy projects that will cover 6 countries of East Africa. A similar cookstoves PoA for East Africa is also at an advanced stage.

Several significant forestry projects are also under development. One involves carbon finance on a CDM PoA basis for a large EU and Norad-funded tree growing scheme involving mostly small growers with some 10,000 ha under cultivation. Others involve tree planting and avoided deforestation on the largest area of privately-owned land in Uganda, and a scheme to introduce woodlots to 50,000 farmers in northern Uganda.

Strong international links have been built up with leading carbon brokers, consultancy

companies and climate change specialists. The Bureau has a particularly close relationship with Uganda's main donors and international NGOs involved in the climate change and carbon finance fields. As a result of this, the German agency GTZ has used the Bureau to deliver a range of project and information services as part of its national small-scale energy programme. This features Gold Standard and CDM methodologies for improved energy technologies, especially improved cookstoves.

The Bureau has attended the past four United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change conferences in Nairobi, Bali, Poznan and Copenhagen, and is called upon to speak at many domestic and international meetings on carbon market developments and climate change. Over the past 3 years Bureau staff have attended and participated in specialist meetings in Germany, Costa Rica, USA, Scotland, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, Senegal, Spain, South Africa, Denmark and Poland. The Bureau participates in the annual Carbon Expo meetings in Europe, and the Africa Carbon Forum meetings.

The Bureau prepared climate change and carbon finance briefing packs for every Ugandan Member of Parliament prior to the 2007 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, and screened the Al Gore film ("An Inconvenient Truth"). The Bureau has recently supported the creation of the Parliamentary Forum on Climate Change, and has close links with the Forum.

Other briefings have been given to the Ugandan business community, environmental professionals, civil servants, NGOs, diplomatic missions, youth groups and the general public. The Bureau is consulted frequently by visiting delegations, carbon consultants, researchers, journalists and financiers. A doctoral researcher in carbon funding has also been hosted by the Bureau.

The Bureau has been a peer reviewer for the forestry toolkit on avoided deforestation (REDD) that will be accredited by the Voluntary Carbon Standard during 2010.

In 2009 seven additional staff were added – a support person for the Parliamentary Forum on Climate Change, a CDM energy specialist (ex-Tuv Sud, sponsored by the German government), two corporate offset specialists, an improved cookstoves specialist, a youth development specialist (Britain's first schools carbon reduction officer) and an administrator. Other associate staff and contractors are added from time to time according to the Bureau's workload. The Bureau also has a good literature resource that is available for public use.

As funding allows, the Bureau will engage in further local capacity building, in addition to the working relationship that it already has with the Uganda Investment Authority, the national Climate Change Unit (Designated National Authority) and the Ministry of Water & Environment. Many *pro bono* carbon assignments were carried out in 2009 involving technical advice, information dissemination and project assistance.

The Bureau has an Investment Licence issued by the Uganda Investment Authority (SSD/110376/45056). The company is owned by its Chairman and his family company, but during 2010 additional shareholders are likely to be added, and a Danish-funded B2B link is currently being established with a Danish partner.

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