

## 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. It is now one of Africa's most experienced carbon teams and is able to support organisations wanting to learn about, and to access, carbon finance.

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 in the voluntary and compliance carbon markets. The Bureau has advised many organisations about carbon finance opportunities and climate change.

The Bureau's founder permanently resides in Uganda where he has worked for the past 18 years. He has had a continuous involvement with the development of Uganda's participation in the carbon markets.

He led the DFID-funded technical team in the Ministry of Water, Lands & Environment that undertook the internationally acclaimed reform of Uganda's forest sector, and has also worked as an EU-funded adviser with the Private Sector Foundation Uganda and the Uganda Wildlife Authority. He has spent some 5 years working in South Sudan, 5 years in Zambia and 4 years in Swaziland. He worked for 4 years in Cameroon and 4 years in the Eastern Caribbean representing the British Government's Commonwealth Development Corporation.

He initiated the Bushenyi 'Plan Vivo' carbon finance scheme in western Uganda with CARE, as the first voluntary carbon project for smallholder tree farmers in Uganda. This is today managed by ECOTRUST. 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 Bureau also runs a carbon footprint offset service, and organises the supply of carbon credits from Ugandan projects for use by 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 by them from the Bushenyi Plan Vivo project. The Danish and Irish embassies have become 'carbon neutral'. A Product Carbon Footprint exercise covering all the 14 members of the Uganda Flower Exporters Association was recently carried out, with support from the International Trade Centre.

The Bureau's largest activity is the creation of a regional CDM Programme of Activities (PoA) hub in Uganda that covers East Africa and neighbouring countries. This is aimed at providing affordable and speedy carbon market access to a large number of projects, on a fair trade and open-access basis. It has been involved in the following PoAs in:

- The improved cookstoves PoA (Improved Cook Stoves for East Africa - ICSEA) was the world's first multi-country PoA to be registered, for which support from GIZ, DFID, CARE Denmark and the Nordic Climate Facility was been received. This now extends to include South Africa and Lesotho, and is issuing and selling carbon credits.
- The German KfW development bank supported the Bureau's establishment of a PoA (Sustainable Promotion of East African Renewables - SPEAR) for hydro and other renewable energy projects that will cover 6 countries of East Africa.
- Another regional PoA for biogas (African Clean Energy Switch - ACES-Biogas) was registered by the Bureau. It has now sold its shares in the management company to the Dutch NGO Hivos. This initially covers Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda.

- A pioneering forestry Gold Standard umbrella project (Forestry for Climate Adaptation & Carbon Storage in Africa - FOCASA) is in advanced preparation with Danida support and expertise from Danish Forestry Extension, and has prepared a 10-year retrospective claim for carbon credits for the members of Uganda's Sawlog Production Grant Scheme (SPGS).

Most of the applicant projects for these PoAs are supported with business advice and introductions to potential financiers.

All the Bureau's PoAs are intended as potential partnerships with the East African Development Bank (EADB) as an equity investor in the respective Coordinating/Managing Entity companies that are registered to run the separate PoAs. This will create a solid link between the companies and the host governments who are shareholders in the EADB.

The Climate Technology Initiative-Private Financing Advisory Network (CTI-PFAN) uses the Bureau as one of its Uganda country partners. The Bureau provides coaching support to projects in this important programme that showcases African clean energy businesses.

The Bureau has been involved in several significant forestry projects. One involves carbon finance on a Gold Standard umbrella basis for the scheme involving some 500 growers with some 10,000 ha planted (see FOCASA, above). Others have involved tree planting, avoided deforestation, and a scheme for a new initiative for protecting Mabira forest.

Strong international links have been built up with leading carbon buyers, 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 GIZ has used the Bureau to deliver a range of project and information services.

The Bureau attends UNFCCC conferences, and is called upon to speak at many domestic and international meetings on carbon market developments and climate change. The Bureau has participated in the annual Carbon Expo meetings in Europe and its successor Innovate4Climate, and Africa Carbon Forum meetings. In 2013 the Bureau became the first African member of the Nexus Carbon For Development cooperative based in Singapore.

The Bureau provides information about climate change and the carbon markets to a wide audience. This started with the preparation of briefing packs for every Ugandan Member of Parliament prior to the 2007 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. The Bureau then supported the creation of the Parliamentary Forum on Climate Change. In 2010 the Bureau registered the Carbon Foundation for East Africa to promote further educational work across the region, and the launch of the "Climate Sense" newsheet in association with the Forum and the donor community. New sponsors for this educational work are being sought.

Many climate change and carbon briefings are given to the East African 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.

The Bureau has an Investment Licence issued by the Uganda Investment Authority.

The Bureau is located in the tranquil Lubowa estate on the Entebbe side of Kampala, and is easily accessible from the international airport.

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