



PRESS RELEASE

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BioCarbon announces community forest conservation project in Zambia

Global investor BioCarbon Group is proud to announce its investment into a community forest conservation project in Zambia. The Lower Zambezi REDD+ project is improving the lives of African communities, protecting forests and wildlife, and reducing carbon emissions with the Lower Zambezi REDD+ project.

BioCarbon Group is a leading international investor in land based carbon mitigation activities, and its shareholders include Global Forest Partners LP, the IFC (a member of the World Bank Group) and Macquarie Bank. The project is being implemented locally by BioCarbon Partners (BCP), the Africa-based social enterprise.

Through this partnership the project will protect 39,000 hectares of forest adjacent to the Lower Zambezi National Park, working with and improving the lives of over 8,000 local community members.

“High-quality avoided deforestation projects such as this can have transformational benefits for local communities. Whereas local farmers are traditionally forced to cut down forests for survival, this investment allows us to bring in agricultural expertise to boost food production and support new local businesses. We were impressed by the level of engagement the project has built with local communities, and we believe that private investment and carbon finance can make a real difference to them. This will also help to conserve a unique forest ecosystem and its wildlife”, said Johannes Ebeling of BioCarbon Group.

The project has achieved outstanding ‘triple gold’ validation under the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) standard and is currently undergoing verification under the internationally leading Verified Carbon Standard (VCS). The project protects threatened miombo forest in a globally significant trans-frontier conservation area by addressing local drivers of deforestation, for example by supporting local farmers to increase agricultural productivity on their land, diversify their income base, and by creating new jobs. These forests are otherwise under threat from unsustainable agricultural practices and urban charcoal demand.

“According to UN estimates, Zambia has one of the highest deforestation rates relative to land area in the whole of Africa. The Government has a REDD+ strategy process in place, and the Lower Zambezi Project fits into this process as the first, and currently only, pilot REDD+ project in the country. The project is designed to catalyze transformational community livelihood benefits, support the national policy process, and provide lessons for scaling up high-quality REDD+ activities. We are delighted to be partnering with BioCarbon Group in this important effort”, said Dr. Hassan Sachedina of BCP.

A pilot conservation farming program set up by the project is now providing 200 families with training and market linkages that target a doubling of food production from the land. The project also supports sustainable alternative income-generating activities, such as livestock projects, small-scale business development, honey production, and sustainable harvesting of eco-charcoal. Moreover, project funds support local healthcare facilities, schooling infrastructure, educational services and improve access to clean water. This gives the community’s children a chance for a brighter future.

In addition, local communities and authorities have been successfully engaged and supported to fend off poaching pressures in the project’s forests. This area is an important buffer to Lower Zambezi National Park, and is valuable habitat for some of Africa’s most charismatic wildlife, including lions, antelopes and other threatened species. The project thus creates the basis for a sustainable future for wildlife tourism, close to Zambia’s capital city, Lusaka.

Further details about this project can be found on the CCBA website: <http://www.climate-standards.org/2013/03/13/lower-zambezi-redd-project/>.

Notes to editors

About BioCarbon Group

BioCarbon Group Pte Ltd is a leading international investor in land based carbon mitigation activities that offer transformational environmental and development benefits. With projects located in Africa, Asia, Australia and South America, BioCarbon partners with experienced local project partners. Its shareholders include Global Forest Partners LP, the IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, and Macquarie Bank.

www.biocarbongroup.com

About BioCarbon Partners

BioCarbon Partners (BCP) is an African-based and majority African-owned social enterprise that develops and manages long-term forest carbon projects in globally significant biodiversity landscapes in Africa. BCP combines an entrepreneurial approach with a core philosophy of caring for people and environments to catalyze landscape-scale, community-based market driven solutions to deforestation. Our local presence and rural focus enables us to drive change with our partners,

working to reinvent rural Africa, through innovative partnership-based Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) projects.

www.biocarbonpartners.com

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