

press release

STANDARD CHARTERED BANK UGANDA PLANTS INDIGENOUS SPECIES OF TREES IN MANAFWA

Saturday, 27 April 2013, Manafwa – Standard Chartered Bank Uganda in partnership with Ecotrust (Environmental Conservation Trust of Uganda) today planted 3,000 trees in Bukoma Hills, Manafwa to fill in gaps where those planted earlier in the UGS 461m 3 year tree planting project did not survive. During this period, the Bank planted 200,000 in all the regions of Uganda. At the same event, 17 out of the 95 tree farmers who applied for carbon credits were recognized, courtesy of UNDP.

The project, spanning from 2010 to 2012 saw indigenous trees being planted to restore and conserve the environment. The first phases that coincided with rainy seasons had trees planted in the Walanga Hills of Mbale and Manafwa; Bishop Stuart University as well as the surrounding hills in Mbarara; Nabitalo and Bwetamiiza in Wakiso District; Awach Primary School in Gulu and Bukoma Hill in Manafwa.

The ultimate objective of the project is to help contribute to the country's sustainable development through preservation and conservation of the environment. The launch was presided over by the Chairman LC 5 Manafwa, Ambassador Walimbwa Charles Peke . He commended the Bank for its efforts to mitigate the environmental degradation related disasters as part of its Sustainability Agenda. He thanked Standard Chartered Bank for leading the way and called upon other business entities and individuals to do the same.

"I would like on behalf of Government, National Environment Management Authority) NEMA, National Forestry Authority (NFA) and the local communities to extend our appreciation to Standard Chartered Bank, Ecotrust and other partners for supporting this noble cause and I wish to call upon other private companies and individuals to emulate the Bank's example. We are all aware of the tragedies that have in the last 3 consecutive years hit different parts

of the Eastern and Western Regions, all emanating from environmental degradation. This is the best example of a Public Private Partnership to execute the tree planting project. Standard Chartered has led the way in environmental conservation, and for this, we are most grateful. We should not wait for disaster to strike. We should instead avert it. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure this discipline is observed." Ambassador Walimbwa said.

Speaking at the same function, the Standard Chartered Bank Head of Corporate Affairs, Mr Herbert Zake stated that protecting and conserving the environment is one of the Bank's main Sustainability pillars in addition to creating access to financial services. The other Corporate Social Responsibility areas that the Bank addresses include the youth, health and education.

"The Bank's operational impact is less severe than that of many other businesses, Nevertheless, we can still make a difference by doing our bit to protect the environment. The trees that we are planting in the different regions of Uganda are of indigenous species and should contribute positively to the conservation of the environment as well as its biodiversity and curbing degradation and the resultant calamities. We are doing this for ourselves and the future generation. Standard Chartered Bank is here for good, for the long run and for the progress of our communities." Zake said.

In addition, he emphasized that the management and staff are very passionate about communities in which the Bank operates and still remain committed to do whatever it takes to safeguard these communities. This is evidenced by their own participation in the Bank led and employee driven community initiatives.

The Executive Director Environmental Conservation Trust of Uganda (Ecotrust) Pauline Kalunda thanked Standard Chartered Bank for the partnership opportunity which she said will greatly reduce land degradation in the area and other parts of the country where the project will be implemented. The first lot of beneficiaries of the project accessed carbon credits at the same event.

Also in attendance were staff from NBS TV who are also actively involved in tree planting.

The other major social investment the Bank is currently supporting is the Seeing is Believing (the fight against preventable blindness), an investment of USD 6.25m running for four years (2013-2016) focusing on child eye health and covering Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania

in partnership with the respective governments and 2 consortia of Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs). Standard Chartered Bank also provided safe water sources to communities in 9 districts of Uganda from 2004 to 2010, an investment of over UGS 250m. Under the NetsforLife Project in partnership with the Coca Cola Foundation and Church of Uganda Planning Relief and Development, the Bank distributed over 1.4m nets to children under 5 years, expectant mothers and people living with HIV across Uganda since 2006, and over 4,000 malaria control agents were trained in the same period.

-ENDS -