

press release

Standard Chartered Bank signs a UGS 70m tree planting Memorandum of Understanding with National Forestry Authority

Thursday 15 August 2013 - Kampala, Uganda: Standard Chartered Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding for a 3 year tree planting project with National Forestry Authority. This was revealed at the press conference held at the Bank's Head Office premises in Kampala. The project's ultimate objective is to restore the Navugulu Central Forest Reserve on Bboza hill, Mpigi District.

Speaking at the MOU signing ceremony, the Minister of Water and Environment, Hon. Prof. Ephraim Kamuntu, commended the Bank for its dedicated effort towards environmental conservation despite being a purely financial service institution.

'I would like, on behalf of the Government of Uganda, to extend our gratitude and sincere appreciation to Standard Chartered Bank for the continued efforts to supplement government programs. I am aware that you have over the years invested colossal sums of money in re-greening bare landscapes with indigenous species in an effort to conserve our environment,' the Minister said. He called upon other organizations and individuals to follow suit. The preservation of the environment is one of the biggest challenges facing humanity; hence it calls for a concerted effort.

At the same ceremony, the Standard Chartered Bank Uganda Managing Director, Mr. Herman Kasekende, emphasized that protecting the environment is a strong sustainability pillar of the Bank in addition to ensuring access to financial services and tackling financial crime.

“As a Bank, our environmental operational impact is less severe than other businesses but by doing our bit to protect the environment, we can make a difference. To protect our bio-diversity and environment requires a collective effort to reverse the negative effects of environmental degradation and its related hazards. As a bank, we have a strong commitment to preventing and limiting any adverse effects whenever we reasonably can. Internally, we continuously encourage our staff to adopt environmental friendly practices but it does not end there, they also actively engage in the planting of the trees through employee volunteering as well as investing their funds. I would thus like to recognize our staff’s support towards the successful implementation of our environment programs.

The NFA Executive Director, Mr. Michael Mugisa pledged to work very diligently and closely with Standard Chartered Bank to ensure a smooth and long lasting partnership. He commended Standard Chartered for its effort in conserving the environment and for always seeking partnership for the good of our country. ‘I would like to assure the Bank that the NFA fully supports this project and we have every confidence that it will be a successful project.’ He further outlined that it will be a phased approach, done in line with the weather patterns.

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Notes to Editors

About Standard Chartered Bank in Uganda

Standard Chartered Bank Uganda is a member of the Standard Chartered Group. The Bank has been operating in Uganda for over 100 years having celebrated its centenary in August last year. As Uganda’s first bank, established in 1912, it currently has a network of 12 branches and 30 ATMs spread across the country. The Bank employs over 500 people. Standard Chartered’s core businesses in Uganda are in Consumer Banking, Corporate and Institutional Banking and Global Markets products and services.

Standard Chartered is committed to the community in Uganda through various community relations programs, working closely with the Ministry of Health, Uganda Red Cross, Sight Savers International, World Vision and Water Aid. The Bank's philanthropic work in Uganda was recognized when we won the awards below;

- *Bank of the Year" 2012 in Uganda - FT-The Banker - Bank of the Year*
- *Euromoney Best Bank in Uganda 2009 & 2010*
- *EMEA Finance Best Foreign Bank in Uganda 2009,2010,2011 & 2012*
- *Tumaini Awards 2013 best corporate*
- *Public Opinions Uganda Responsible Investment Best Bank 2013*
- *Consumer Insights; Best Bank in customer service 2009*

Standard Chartered – leading the way in Asia, Africa and the Middle East

Standard Chartered is a leading international banking group. It has operated for over 150 years in some of the world's most dynamic markets and earns more than 90 per cent of its profits in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. This geographic focus and commitment to developing deep relationships with clients and customers has driven the Bank's growth in recent years. Standard Chartered PLC is listed on the London and Hong Kong stock exchanges as well as the Bombay and National Stock Exchanges in India.

With 1,700 offices in 70 markets, the Group offers exciting and challenging international career opportunities for nearly 87,000 staff. It is committed to building a sustainable business over the long term and is trusted worldwide for upholding high standards of corporate governance, social responsibility, environmental protection and employee diversity. Standard Chartered's heritage and values are expressed in its brand promise, 'Here for good'.