

# press release

## STANDARD CHARTERED BANK UGANDA PARTNERS WITH NATIONAL FORESTRY AUTHORITY TO PLANT TREES IN MPIGI

**Saturday, 12 April 2014, Mpigi** – Standard Chartered Bank Uganda in partnership with National Forestry Authority today launched the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of their tree planting project to restore Navugulu Forest (renamed “Earth Hour Forest”) in Bboza village, Mpigi District. This is a forest that was degraded by encroachers but is now being rescued and trees replanted.

The target of the UGS 70m project is to plant trees of indigenous species to cover an entire hill near the Mpigi District Headquarters. It comes in the wake of a similar project where the Bank in partnership with the Environment Conservation Trust of Uganda (Ecotrust) planted 200,000 trees in all the four different regions of Uganda during the 3 year period running from 2010 to 2012, an investment of over UGS 460m. This was in the Walanga Hills of Mbale and Manafwa; Bishop Stuart University as well as the surrounding hills in Mbarara; Nabitale, 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 Mpigi District LC5 Chairman, Mr John Mary Luwakanya. He commended the Bank for its efforts to mitigate the environmental degradation related disasters and for its Corporate Social Responsibility. He thanked Standard Chartered Bank for leading the way and called upon other business entities to follow suit.

***“I would like on behalf of Mpigi District and the local communities here to extend our appreciation to Standard Chartered Bank and National Forestry Authority for supporting this noble cause and I wish to call upon other private companies and individuals to emulate the Bank’s example. We are very fortunate and grateful that Mpigi District is benefitting from the Bank’s generous corporate social investment. This is a great example of a Public Private Partnership working together to execute the tree planting project. Standard Chartered has led the way in environmental conservation, and for this, the Bank is commended. It is everyone’s responsibility to ensure that we strive to follow this worthwhile example to conserve our environment for posterity, our children and grand children.”*** Luwakanya said.

Speaking at the same function, the Standard Chartered Bank Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Mr Herman Kasekende stated that protecting the environment is one of the Bank’s main 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 many other businesses. Nevertheless, we can still make a difference by doing our bit by supporting efforts 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 generations. Standard Chartered Bank is here for good, for the long run and for the progress of the communities where we operate.”*** Kasekende 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 driven and employee driven community initiatives.

The Executive Director National Forestry Authority, Mr Michael Mugisa, thanked Standard Chartered Bank for the partnership opportunity which he said will greatly reduce land degradation in the area and other parts of the country where the Bank has planted trees.

The Mpigi Project has so far had 50 hectares or half a hill planted with trees. Today’s 2<sup>nd</sup> phase will see another 59 hectares planted to complete the re-greening of the hill. It is estimated that without interventions like this and at the rate at which trees are being cut Uganda may not have any forest cover by 2050.

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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 2012. 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 600 people. Standard Chartered’s offers a full range of banking products and services.*

*Standard Chartered is committed to the community in Uganda through various community relation programs, working closely with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Uganda Red Cross, Sightsavers, 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 – Financial Times - The Banker - Bank of the Year*
- *Euromoney Best Bank in Uganda 2009 & 2010*
- *EMEA Finance Best Bank in Uganda 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013*
- *Best Bank in Quality Standards by the Uganda National Bureau of Standards 2013*
- *Best in CSR 2013 – Health (Seeing is Believing) by The Uganda Chapter on Corporate Social Responsibility*
- *Tumaini Best Corporate Award 2013*
- *Public Opinions Uganda Responsible Investment Best Bank 2013*
- *Consumer Insights; Best Bank in customer service 2009*

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