

# press release

## **StanChart re-affirms support to the environment**

---

**13<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2014 – KASAMA, ZAMBIA:** Standard Chartered Bank has made a re-commitment to support efforts to tackle deforestation in Zambia. The Bank announced this at a tree-planting event at Musenga Primary School in Kasama on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2014. As a market leader in financial innovation, digital and community investment, Standard Chartered Bank CEO, Andrew Okai, re-affirmed the bank's commitment to support the environment through tree-planting to tackle deforestation - Zambia's major environmental challenge.

Standard Chartered Bank Zambia kicked-off its 2014 tree-planting exercise by planting 100 trees at Musenga Primary School in Kasama. According to the Bank's CEO, Mr. Andrew Okai said, "*Zambia has one of the highest rates of deforestation in the world. As the oldest bank operating in Zambia, we are committed to protect the environment in which we operate. Last year, Standard Chartered planted over 1,500 trees, including in Livingstone during the historic UNWTO conference. Our presence in Kasama dates back many years - and what better place to kick-off our 2014 tree-planting exercise.*"

In 2013, Standard Chartered Bank's tree-planting went 'digital' – the trees planted by the Bank in Livingstone were digitally mapped through GPS technology. This means one can use Google Earth to view where StanChart has planted trees at the Victoria Falls Heritage Park in Livingstone. The bank plans to extend this tree-planting innovation to other parts of the country.

Mr. Okai also used the opportunity to donate 10 computers to pupils of Musenga Primary School in an effort to empower the pupils with greater access to ICT. Handing over the computers to Kasama District Commissioner, Mr. Okai said, "*Standard Chartered is also committed to digital innovation – we lead the market in digital banking and our acclaimed community initiatives, of which environmental protection is a priority. Today we have brought these 'firsts' together as we partner with Musenga Primary School and I hope the computers we have donated today will empower the pupils with access to ICT.*"

Speaking at the same event, District Commissioner of Kasama, Mr. Kalanga Bwalya, said, "*Kasama and the surrounding areas are endowed with a beautiful natural habitat and the*

*mighty Chishimba Falls. All of this depends on a self-sustaining eco-system, which we must protect. I would like to commend Standard Chartered Bank for planting these trees here in Kasama, which will go a long way to help us tackle deforestation. I would also like to commend the bank for donating computers to the school, which will enhance the pupils' learning experience."*

**ENDS**