



PLANETAIR AFRICA PORTFOLIO



Location: Africa and various countries

Portfolio Type: Mixed Portfolio - Gold Standard projects and projects in Africa

Our Planetair Africa Portfolio is a two-pronged approach designed to bolster your climate commitment with robust integrity and credibility.

The first component of our portfolio allows you to offset all your greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through Gold Standard-certified climate projects. The Gold Standard is globally recognized for its stringent criteria and effectiveness in reducing GHG emissions, thereby ensuring the high quality of the projects. Each tonne of GHG offset by these projects is traceable through a unique certificate, proving an assurance of the integrity, reliability, efficiency, and credibility of the offset.

The second component of our portfolio allows you to also support two climate projects in Africa. This climate contribution is in addition to the carbon offset provided by the first component of the portfolio.

The first project aims to build habitats adapted to climate change for the benefit of the most disadvantaged families in the Sahel. Our partner, the Nubian Vault Association, has been successfully leading this program since 2000.

The second project seeks, in concert with local communities, to protect one of the last significant swamp forests in Benin from destruction. Our partner Humy launched this project in collaboration with its local partner Ecodec in 2021.

Thus, your contribution enables Planetair to support both Gold Standard-certified projects and projects in Africa.

In recognition of your commitment to combatting climate change, Planetair will email you a carbon offset certificate. The certificate will detail the number of tonnes of CO₂e that your contribution has helped to reduce¹.

The two components of the portfolio are further described below.

¹ The certificate is solely intended to recognize your contribution: it has no monetary value and cannot be traded or sold.

COMPONENT 1 - GOLD STANDARD-CERTIFIED PROJECTS

By contributing to the first component of our portfolio, you offset 100% of your GHG emissions by supporting Gold Standard certified climate projects. This internationally renowned certification guarantees real, measured, transparent, additional, and verified neutralization of GHG emissions. It stands as the benchmark in voluntary GHG offsetting.

We select innovative projects such as solar and wind energy generation, improved domestic stoves, and optimized waste management. These projects are highly effective carbon offsetting mechanisms, as they prevent GHG emissions at the source. For instance, harnessing solar or wind energy to generate electricity reduces our reliance on fossil fuels like coal and oil, important sources of GHG emissions. Furthermore, advanced waste management techniques, such as the recovery and reuse of organic waste to generate energy, contribute to the reduction of methane emissions, a notably potent greenhouse gas.

Unlike tree planting projects that require time to sequester carbon, the Gold Standard projects we select yield an immediate positive impact on the climate, making them a more appropriate response to the urgency of the climate crisis.

Furthermore, Gold Standard certification requires projects to contribute to at least three UN Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 13: Climate Action.



For an overview of recent Gold Standard projects supported by Planetair, please refer to the table located at the end of this brochure.

COMPONENT 2 - PROJECTS IN AFRICA

The second component of our portfolio is dedicated to financing two projects in Africa. We allocate 25% of your contribution to these projects.

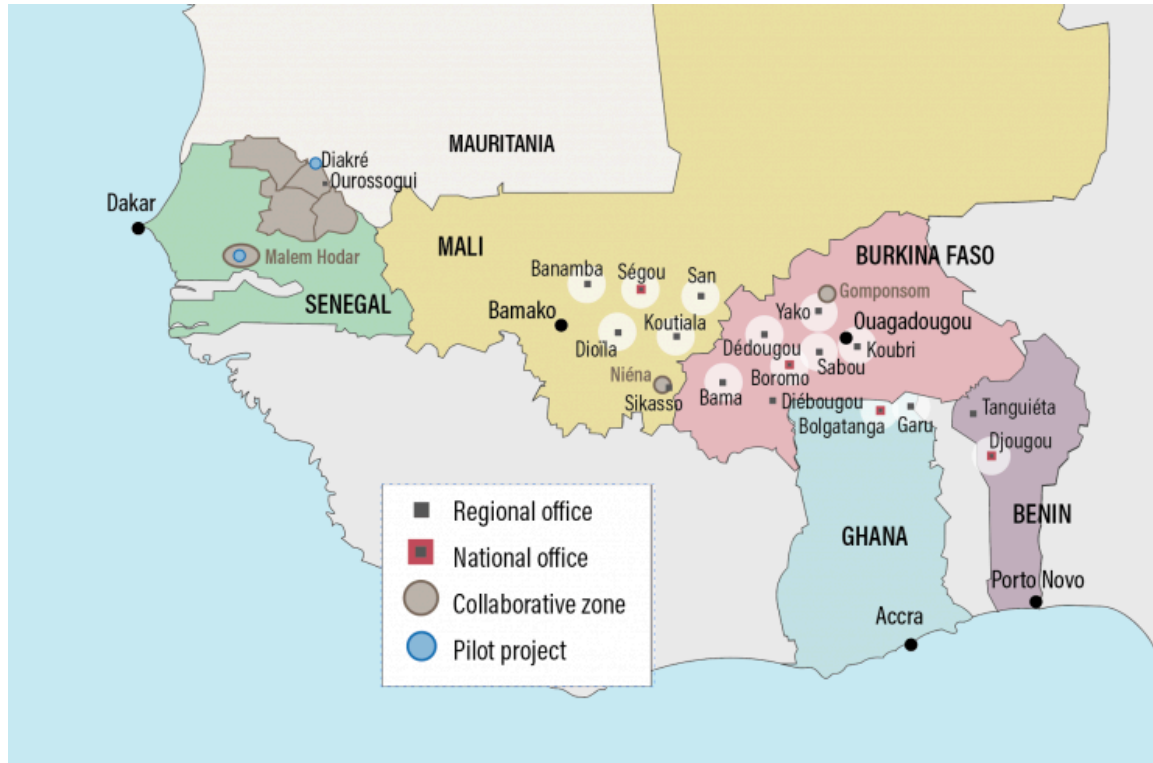
Project for the construction of housing better adapted to climate change for the benefit of the most disadvantaged families in the Sahel

Since 2000, our partner, the Nubian Vault Association (AVN), has been ambitious in developing a market for adapted housing in West Africa, integrating issues of housing, vocational training, economy, environment, and climate."



At the heart of the programme is the Nubian vault, an architectural concept that is both ancestral and innovative. This construction technique requires neither timber nor metal roofing sheets but uses mud bricks and mortar as the raw material. Local labour is trained in the technique, providing much needed employment and a professional skill base of Nubian Vault masons. The results? Access by families to affordable and comfortable homes adapted to climate change, the creation of 'green' jobs, the strengthening of local economies at many levels, and the development of an adapted and sustainable construction sector.

AVN's 15 regional teams are actively deploying the programme in five West African countries: Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Benin and Ghana.



AVN deploys an innovative model of development aimed at transferring to national and local actors the necessary skills for the creation of a dynamic and evolving endogenous market.

More information on the Nubian Vault programme is available here: <https://www.lavoutenubienne.org/-the-programme-62->

Protection of the Hlanzoun Forest in Benin, in Collaboration and for the Benefit of Local Communities

Our partner for this project, Humy, is fighting against the destruction of the Hlanzoun forest by developing alternative income-generating activities with local communities. Together with its local partner Ecodec, Humy supports, among other things, tree plantations, a micro-credit fund for women, and the development of beekeeping.

The Hlanzoun forest in southern Benin is the last swamp forest in West Africa crossed by a permanent watercourse, making it a unique place for biodiversity. This unique ecosystem is home to many endangered species and plays an essential role in limiting floods.



However, this ecosystem faces several threats such as deforestation, hunting, and unsustainable collection of forest products. The severe poverty of local communities drives them to destructive practices. The forest has lost about 2,000 hectares between 2000 and 2021, with only 900 hectares remaining in good condition today.

Several emblematic species are present in the area:

- The flora of the Hlanzoun forest consists of 241 species spread over 185 genera and 70 families, including rare species (*Uapaca paludosa*) and/or endangered ones (*Hallea ledermannii* and *Nauclea xanthoxylon*).
- This flora is particularly interesting from a conservation perspective as it is a real reservoir of so-called "Guineo-Congolese" species, which are very rare in the Dahomey Gap. Thus, the Hlanzoun forest includes 25 plant species of high importance for the conservation of flora in Benin, of which 6 are globally threatened. The humid dense forest islands of South Benin, including Hlanzoun, should be considered a national priority in the strategy for biodiversity conservation. These habitats concentrate 20% of the Beninese flora for 64% of plant species threatened nationally.
- The fauna, whether birds (more than 170 species), insects (nearly 190 diurnal butterflies and 60 dragonflies), reptiles (21 species), or fish (55 species), is highly diversified. For mammals, seven species of primates known from the forest can be mentioned: Mona Monkey (*Cercopithecus mona*), Tantalus Monkey (*Cercopithecus tantalus*), Geoffroy's Colobus (*Colobus vellerosus*), Van Beneden's Colobus (*Procolobus verus*), Red-bellied Monkey (*Cercopithecus erythrogaster*), and for prosimians, the Senegal Galago (*Galago senegalensis*) and Thomas's Galago (*Galagoides thomasi*). Notably, there is the presence of a globally extremely rare dragonfly, *Ceriagrion citrinum*, considered "Endangered" according to the IUCN.
- In total, more than 60 species of flora and fauna are considered of priority importance based on their IUCN global status, national conservation status, distribution, and rarity level, or even endemism. The Hlanzoun forest must be considered as a refuge area of primary importance for biodiversity at the scale of Benin but also for the Dahomey Gap and even the West African sub-region.

In 2021, Humy carried out an environmental diagnostic mission that enabled the consultation of local actors and the establishment of a conservation strategy without which the forest would probably already be destroyed.

It is now vital to support local communities in developing income-generating activities based on nature. Among the activities undertaken are:

1. Training and equipping 40 beekeepers - this activity will replace the destructive collection of wild honey, while promoting pollination and providing a high-value product to local communities.
2. Planting of 5,000 trees used to restore degraded forest areas and generating significant income for the 5 micro-nurseries trained by the project.

3. Establishment of a micro-credit fund primarily intended for women to finance commercial activities such as the production of traditional black soap or local crafts based on rattan.
4. The project will thus directly support 500 to 700 people by generating income for 100 to 150 families while protecting a vital space for its 35,000 neighboring inhabitants.



To watch a short video on the Hlanzoun forest project, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDUjwQAWhtg&t=6s>"

A Few Words About Humy

Humy works with its local partners to protect biodiversity within a holistic approach that integrates access to health, education, economic development, the safeguarding and promotion of cultural heritage, and the conservation of Nature.

HUMY supports its local partners for several years. Once the financial and technical autonomy of the local populations is achieved, HUMY disengages from the field and continues its support to other populations and other sites in need of its assistance. The duration of intervention at a site is 10 to 20 years, depending on local complexities and specificities.

HUMY's actions are in line with recognized international frameworks, such as the Universal Declarations of Human Rights, the Rights of the Child, the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Nagoya Conference, the Aichi Targets, and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

To learn more about Humy, visit: humi.org.

ABOUT PLANETAIR

Planetair is a climate protection initiative launched in 2005 by the Unisfera International Centre, a non-profit organization (unisfera.org). The initiative is now administered by the Planetair Centre (planetair.ca), also a non-profit organization. We are committed to promoting sustainable development and contributing to the fight against climate change. Our operations are funded by the grants and contributions we receive in support of our activities and, to a limited extent, by the advisory services we offer.

Each year, our commitments to you are verified by certified public accountants (CPA). The most recent audit report is always available for consultation on our website: planetair.ca.

Protégez-Vous.

We are proud to mention that Planetair is the only organization active in greenhouse gas offsetting recommended by Protégez-Vous (*Protect Yourself*), the reference magazine for consumer protection. You can find the link to the analysis conducted by Protégez-Vous also on our homepage.

Questions and Comments

For any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us at: info@planetair.ca.

Your support is vital to our mission, and we sincerely thank you for your commitment to act with us!

A FEW WORDS ABOUT 1% FOR THE PLANET

Planetair, AVN, and Humy are proud environmental partners of the 1% for the Planet network.



A MOVEMENT LAUNCHED BY PIONEERS


1% for the Planet is a non-profit organization launched in 2002 in the United States by Yvon Chouinard, founder and owner of Patagonia, and Craig Mathews, former owner of Blue Ribbon Flies.



Being philanthropists themselves, contributing more than 1% of their respective businesses' turnover, they wanted to create a network capable of bringing together philanthropic companies, with an easily recognizable label and a simple message.



Their main argument to persuade others to join the movement: demonstrating that their businesses can be both flourishing and philanthropic.



This philanthropy is gaining momentum as it is practiced by more than 6,000 members in nearly 91 countries. Since its inception, more than 350 million dollars have been dedicated to environmental organizations.

SOME OF THE GOLD STANDARD PROJECTS TO WHICH PLANETAIR HAS CONTRIBUTED

Project/technology/country	Climate solution
<p data-bbox="352 363 709 396">Efficient Cooking Ovens Project</p> <p data-bbox="478 402 583 435">Nepal/Asia</p> 	<p data-bbox="884 363 1885 472">Problem: Nepal is a mountainous country with difficult topographical and socio-economic conditions. A quarter of its population lives below the poverty line. Besides economic poverty, this population lacks modern energy services for cooking and depends on inefficient and unhealthy open fire stoves.</p> <p data-bbox="884 516 1885 662">Solution: This home energy efficiency project distributes modern and improved stoves to socially marginalized groups in southeastern Nepal in the districts of Rautahat, Sarlahi and Mahottari. The stoves provide a clean cooking solution for households in these communities, improving health, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, conserving local forests, and promoting gender equality.</p> <p data-bbox="884 706 1885 889">Thus, in addition to reducing emissions, the stoves allow complete combustion of the fuel, minimizing air pollution, for healthier cooking that protects the health of the inhabitants. More efficient, the stoves also require up to 50% less wood fuel, alleviating deforestation pressures on nearby ecosystems and reducing the time needed to collect wood. The project also creates jobs for local men and women, who are trained by the project promoter in the installation and construction of the stoves.</p>

Project/technology/country	Climate solution
<p data-bbox="380 289 680 354">Cururos Wind Park Project Chile/South America</p> 	<p data-bbox="884 289 1885 354">Problem: In Chile, some of the country's electricity is generated from fossil fuels, which produce significant amounts of greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p data-bbox="884 402 1885 618">Solution: The Cururos project encompasses two wind farms located in the Coquimbo region of Chile with a total installed capacity of 109.6 MW and an average annual output of 290 GWh. The wind farms are connected to the Central Interconnected System (SIC). By displacing fossil fuel-based electricity in the grid, it has the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 173,819 tonnes of CO₂e per year, which equates to 1,390,550 tonnes of CO₂e over the 7-year renewable accreditation period.</p>
<p data-bbox="264 820 800 885">Efficient Cookstoves and Drinking Water Project Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda/Africa</p> 	<p data-bbox="884 820 1885 959">Problem: In rural areas of Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda, a large portion of the population lacks access to clean water and relies on wood and charcoal for cooking and water purification. This leads to environmental (deforestation, greenhouse gas emissions), health (indoor air quality), and economic (cost of wood and time required for wood collection) challenges.</p> <p data-bbox="884 1008 1885 1187">Solution: To address these issues, the projects subsidize the production and distribution of efficient stoves for low-income families. These efficient stoves help to reduce firewood consumption by approximately 50%. Some of the projects also support the rehabilitation of water boreholes to provide clean water to communities and the installation of water treatment systems at communal water sources, which saves families from having to boil water.</p>

Project/technology/country	Climate solution
<p data-bbox="415 289 653 318">Solar Energy Projects</p> <p data-bbox="369 326 699 355">India and Turkey/Europe and Asia</p> 	<p data-bbox="884 289 1879 391">Problem: In India and Turkey, a significant portion of electricity is generated from fossil fuels that emit large amounts of greenhouse gases. This method of producing electricity remains the cheapest in these countries.</p> <p data-bbox="884 440 1879 508">Solution: Solar park projects allow for the substitution of fossil fuels by solar energy, thereby reducing the greenhouse gas emissions associated with electricity production in these populous countries.</p>
<p data-bbox="415 701 653 730">Wind Energy Projects</p> <p data-bbox="369 738 699 768">India and Turkey/Europe and Asia</p> 	<p data-bbox="884 701 1879 803">Problem: In India and Turkey, a significant portion of electricity is generated from fossil fuels that emit large amounts of greenhouse gases. This method of producing electricity remains the cheapest in these countries.</p> <p data-bbox="884 852 1879 920">Solution: Wind park projects allow for the substitution of fossil fuels by wind energy, thereby reducing the greenhouse gas emissions associated with electricity production in these populous countries.</p>

Project/technology/country	Climate solution
<p data-bbox="365 289 699 354">Landfill Gas to Energy Project Turkey/Europe/Asia</p> 	<p data-bbox="884 289 1850 354">Problem: Organic matter (i.e. food, paper, etc.) in landfills decompose and release methane gas (a very potent greenhouse gas) into the atmosphere contributing to climate change.</p> <p data-bbox="884 402 1879 621">Solution: The project aims at avoiding greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from an existing landfill by collecting biogas to generate electricity. In addition to the direct avoidance of GHG emissions, further indirect emission reductions are achieved through the CO₂-neutral replacement of fossil fuels used for power generation. The activity includes the installation of a landfill gas extraction system, an enclosed flare as well as a biogas driven genset for electricity production. The biogas power project is built near the Molu village of Koca in the province of Kayseri in Turkey.</p>
<p data-bbox="365 760 699 824">Wastewater Treatment Project Thailand/Asia</p> 	<p data-bbox="884 760 1879 824">Problem: The wastewater treatment facility uses fossil fuels to operate. The former operation of the plant also led to unpleasant smells, impacting people in the surrounding communities.</p> <p data-bbox="884 873 1879 1019">Solution: Thanks to the project, methane generated by the process is now captured, preventing it from contributing to climate change. In addition, it is used to generate energy and thus limits the need to resort to additional fossil fuels. Moreover, the project generates jobs for the local population, and it supports social and educational activities in the community.</p>