


Planetair Africa Portfolio

Location: Africa and various countries
Portfolio Type: Mixed Portfolio - Gold Standard projects and projects in Africa

Our Planetair Africa Portfolio stands out due to its two distinct components, designed to support your climate commitment in a rigorous and credible manner.

The first component of our portfolio allows you to offset all your greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through Gold Standard certified carbon offset projects. The Gold Standard is globally recognized for its stringent criteria and effectiveness in reducing GHG emissions, ensuring the high quality of the projects. Each tonne of GHG offset by these projects is traceable through a unique certificate, ensuring 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 offsetting 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, with you contribution, Planetair can support both Gold Standard-certified projects and climate-related projects in Africa.

In recognition of your commitment to combatting climate change, Planetair will send a carbon offset certificate to you. The certificate will specify the number of tonnes of CO_2e that your contribution has helped to reduce.[1]

Below, you will find a detailed description of the two components of the portfolio.

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 serve as highly effective mechanisms for carbon offsetting by preventing GHG emissions at their source. For example, using solar or wind energy to generate electricity decreases our reliance on fossil fuels, such as coal and oil, which are significant sources of GHG emissions. Additionally, advanced waste management techniques, like the recovery and reuse of organic waste to generate energy, significantly reduce methane emissions, a notably potent greenhouse gas.

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

Unlike tree planting projects that take time to sequester carbon and only do so for a limited period, the Gold Standard projects we select have an immediate positive impact on the climate, making them particularly suitable in response to the urgency of the climate crisis.

Furthermore, Gold Standard projects must contribute to at least three UN Sustainable Development Goals, including not only enhancing climate action (Goal 13) but also promoting other goals such as sustainable energy (Goal 7) and responsible consumption (Goal 12), thereby amplifying their positive impacts.

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

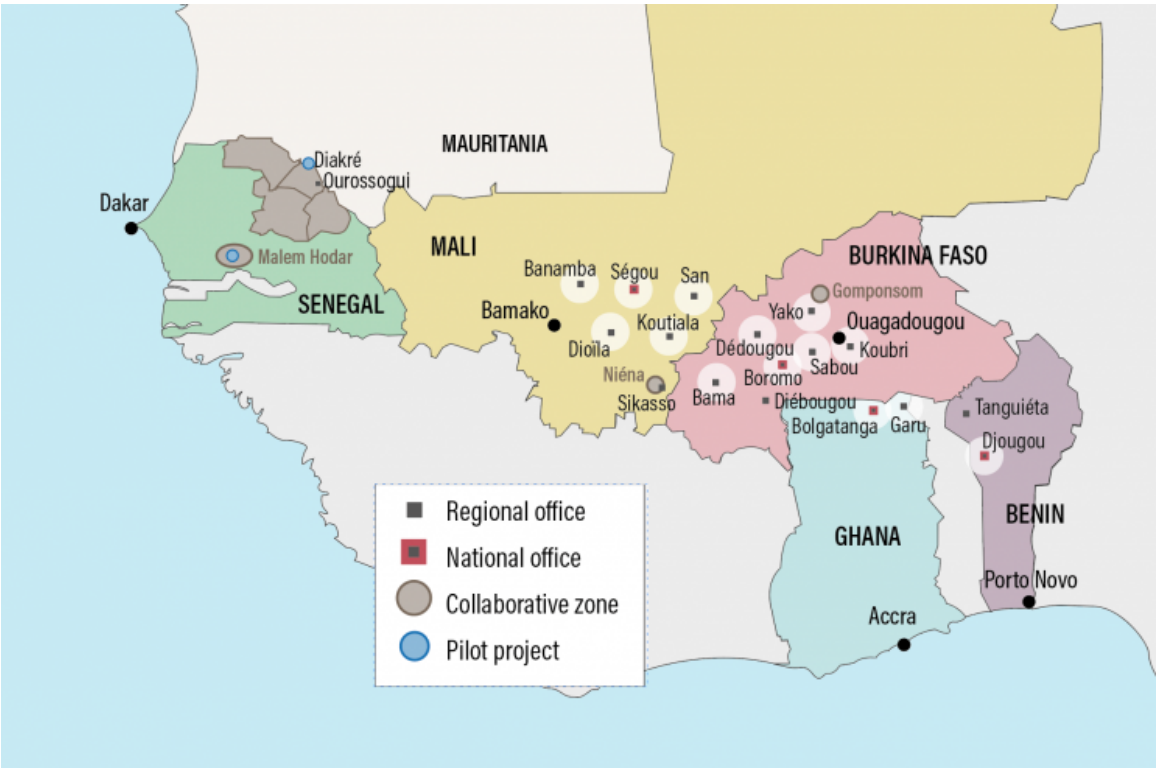
The second component of our portfolio is dedicated to financing two projects in Africa. We allocate 25% of your contribution to these projects.

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: humy.org.

ABOUT PLANETAIR

Planetair is a climate change initiative launched in 2005 by the UNISFÉRA International Centre, a non-profit organization (unisfera.org). Today, the initiative is managed by the Planetair Centre (planetair.ca), also a non-profit organization. Our mission is to promote sustainable development and play a significant role in combating climate change, both from mitigation and adaptation perspectives. We are funded through grants and the contributions we receive, as well as from advisory services we offer.

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

ProtégezVous.

We are honored to share that Planetair is the only organization recommended by Protégez-Vous, the leading consumer protection magazine, in the field of greenhouse gas offsetting. You can find the link to the analysis conducted by Protégez-Vous on our homepage.

Questions and Comments

For any questions or comments, we invite you to contact us at the following address: info@planetair.ca.

Your support is essential to the achievement of our mission, and we express our sincere gratitude for your commitment to our cause!

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 philanthropic initiative, founded in 2002 in the United States by Yvon Chouinard, founder and owner of Patagonia, and Craig Mathews, former owner of Blue Ribbon Flies.

These two visionaries, already committed to philanthropy by dedicating more than 1% of their respective sales to environmental causes, aimed to create a network that could bring together philanthropic businesses under an easily identifiable brand and a simple message.

Their main argument to encourage other businesses to join the movement is to demonstrate that it is possible to be both commercially prosperous and engaged in philanthropic actions.

This philanthropic effort has gained considerable momentum, now uniting over 6,000 members in nearly 91 countries. Since its inception, more than 350 million dollars have been allocated to environmental initiatives, demonstrating the positive impact and global reach of this initiative.

Some of the Gold Standard projects to which Planetair has contributed

Project/technology/country	Climate solution
Efficient Cooking Ovens Project Nepal/Asia 	**Issue:** Nepal, a country characterized by its mountains and challenging topographical conditions, faces significant socio-economic challenges. Nearly a quarter of its population lives below the poverty line. Besides economic poverty, many residents lack access to modern energy services for cooking, forcing them to use inefficient and health-harming open fire stoves. **Climate Solution:** This domestic energy efficiency project aims to provide modern and improved stoves to socially marginalized groups in Southeast Nepal, in the districts of Rautahat, Sarlahi, and Mahottari. These new stoves offer a clean cooking alternative for households in these communities, thus improving the health of residents, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, preserving local forests, and promoting gender equality. In addition to reducing emissions, these stoves allow for the complete combustion of fuel, thereby minimizing air pollution and ensuring healthier cooking for residents. Their increased efficiency also leads to up to a 50% reduction in wood consumption, which helps alleviate pressure on nearby forest ecosystems and reduces the time needed for wood collection. Furthermore, the project, made possible through carbon financing, generates employment opportunities for men and women in the region, who are trained by project promoters in the installation and construction of these stoves.

Project/technology/country	Climate solution
Cururos Wind Park Project Chile/South America 	**Issue**: In Chile, a significant portion of electricity is produced from fossil fuels, leading to substantial greenhouse gas emissions. **Climate Solution:** The Cururos project involves the establishment of two wind farms in the Coquimbo region of Chile, with a total installed capacity of 109.6 MW and an average annual production of 290 GWh. These wind farms are integrated into the Central Interconnected System (SIC). By substituting fossil electricity in the grid, the project, made possible through carbon financing, 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 accreditation period (renewable).
Efficient Cookstoves and Drinking Water Project Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda/Africa 	**Issue:** In rural areas of Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda, a large portion of the population faces a lack of access to clean water. To cope with this reality, residents resort to using wood and charcoal for cooking and water purification. This practice leads to various environmental challenges such as deforestation and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as health issues related to indoor air quality, not to mention economic impacts such as the cost of wood and the time needed for its collection. **Climate Solution:** To address these challenges, the projects support the production and distribution of efficient stoves for low-income families. These stoves help reduce firewood consumption by up to 50%. Some of these projects go further by funding the rehabilitation of water boreholes to provide clean water to communities, as well as the installation of water treatment systems at communal water sources. These measures, made possible through carbon financing, save families from having to boil water to make it potable.

Project/technology/country	Climate solution
Solar Energy Projects India and Turkey/Europe and Asia 	**Issue** In India and Turkey, a significant portion of electricity is produced from fossil fuels, thereby generating substantial amounts of greenhouse gases. Despite this, this method of electricity production remains the least expensive in these countries. **Climate Solution:** Solar park projects offer an alternative by substituting solar energy for fossil fuels. This transition, made possible through carbon financing, helps reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with electricity production in these densely populated countries.
Wind Energy Projects India and Turkey/Europe and Asia 	**Issue:** In India and Turkey, a significant portion of electricity is produced from fossil fuels, leading to substantial greenhouse gas emissions. Despite its environmental impact, this method of electricity production remains the least expensive in these countries. **Climate Solution:** Wind park projects offer an alternative by substituting wind energy for fossil fuels. This transition, made possible through carbon financing, helps reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with electricity production in these densely populated countries.

Project/technology/country	Climate solution
Landfill Gas to Energy Project Turkey/Europe/Asia 	**Issue:** In Turkey, the decomposition of organic matter (food, paper, etc.) in landfills releases methane, a very potent greenhouse gas, thereby contributing to climate change. **Climate Solution:** This project aims to prevent greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from an existing landfill site by capturing biogas to generate electricity. In addition to the direct reduction of GHG emissions, other indirect reductions are achieved through the substitution of fossil fuels used for electricity production. Activities include the installation of a landfill gas extraction system, a closed flare, and a biogas-powered generator for electricity production. This biogas power plant project, made possible through carbon financing, is located near the village of Molu de Koca, in the province of Kayseri.
Wastewater Treatment Project Thailand/Asia 	**Issue:** Until recently, residents of the surrounding villages were troubled by the odors emanating from the wastewater treatment ponds of the starch factory, which uses fossil fuels. **Climate Solution:** Thanks to this project, the methane generated by starch processing is now captured, thus preventing its contribution to climate change. Additionally, this capture allows for the production of energy, thereby reducing the need to purchase fossil fuels. Furthermore, the project, made possible through carbon financing, has created jobs for the local population and supports social and educational initiatives within the community.