

CAPE – Carbon Accelerator Programme for the Environment

FSD Africa, in partnership with Finance Earth and the African Natural Capital Alliance (ANCA), launched CAPE to catalyse investment into nature-based carbon and biodiversity projects across Africa.

The opportunity and role of CAPE:



- Africa hosts some of the world’s most important biodiversity and natural carbon assets, creating strong potential for high-quality nature-based carbon projects.
- However, many credible projects fail to reach investment readiness due to a lack of early-stage capital and delivery capacity.
- Project development is becoming more complex as countries refine carbon market rules and land tenure frameworks, increasing the technical and regulatory burden on developers.
- Key early milestones, including community consent (FPIC), project design (PDD), legal and tax structuring, and robust financial modelling, are difficult to fund and execute at early stages.
- As a result, many developers struggle to design projects that meet buyer technical standards and investor due-diligence requirements, leaving projects underfunded and unrealised.

CAPE directly addresses these challenges in the market by:

1

Pipeline and Assessment

Identifying high-quality projects through a wide-reaching expression of interest. Selected projects undergo detailed assessment and due diligence to progress.

2

Project Development

Deploying patient capital and technical support for early-stage project development, including securing community consent (FPIC), best-in-class benefit sharing agreements and technical assessments to strengthen and finalise project designs.

3

Transaction Advisory

Providing tailored transaction advisory support, including comprehensive data rooms, robust financial modelling, risk assessments, legal and governance frameworks.

4

Investment Readiness

Enabling projects to reach investment readiness, with structures and documentation aligned to buyer technical standards and investor requirements.

2025/26 Cohort Overview

7 high-impact projects

from over 140 applicants across 28 African nations

78m+ credits

high-quality nature-based carbon credits generated across projects

~3.4m hectares

total project area, with significant opportunities to aggregate and scale

600,000+ livelihoods

benefited by projects



All projects are targeting first verification in H2 2026-2028

CAPE is a partnership between experienced market participants



A specialist development agency working to make finance work for Africa’s future.

A multi-stakeholder initiative to ensure an African voice on the global nature agenda.

A leading environmental impact investment advisor and regulated fund manager.

CAPE – Carbon Accelerator Programme for the Environment

Unlocking investment for high-integrity and high-impact, nature-based projects across Africa

CAPE's first cohort features four nature-based projects in Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Zambia. CAPE is providing tailored technical and transaction support to enable projects to reach investment readiness and attract implementation finance.



Gashaka Gumti Forest Carbon Project

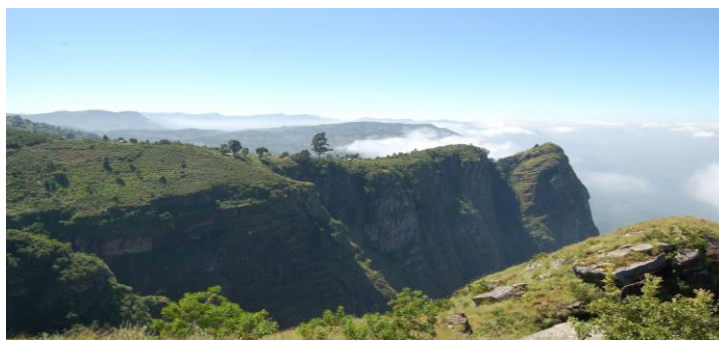
One of Nigeria's first nature-based carbon projects

- **Type:** ARR – Assisted Natural Regeneration (VCS VM0047)
- **Location:** Gashaka Gumti National Park, eastern Nigeria
- **Carbon potential:** 14M tCO₂e
- **Size:** 600,000 ha
- **Developer:** Africa Nature Investors and Africa Carbon Partners
- **Community:** Impacting 150,000+ people living in and around the national park
- **Biodiversity:** West Africa's largest biodiversity hotspot

Papariko

Kenya's first Verra registered blue carbon project and first globally to receive CCB and SD VISta certification

- **Type:** ARR – Mangroves (VCS VM0033)
- **Location:** Southeastern Kenya
- **Carbon potential:** 1M tCO₂e
- **Size:** 1,500 ha
- **Developer:** Vlinder
- **Community:** 300 households, with 70% women participation
- **Biodiversity:** Diverse, local mangrove forest protecting red-listed species



Rubeho Mountains

Community-based forest protection and restoration in a global biodiversity hotspot

- **Type:** ARR & REDD+ (VCS VM0047 and VCS VM0048)
- **Location:** Eastern Arc Mountains, Tanzania
- **Carbon potential:** 14M tCO₂e
- **Size:** 286,000 ha
- **Developer:** Compassionate Carbon and Eden:People+Planet
- **Community:** 90,000 livelihoods strengthened across 40 villages
- **Biodiversity:** Biodiversity hotspot with 300+ threatened species

Barotse Rangelands For Restoration

Locally led livestock enhancement and rangeland restoration project

- **Type:** Agricultural Land Management (VCS VM0042/VM0032)
- **Location:** Barotseland, Zambia
- **Carbon potential:** 30M tCO₂e
- **Size:** 1,200,000 ha
- **Developer:** Pro Green Earth
- **Community:** Impacting 400,000 local people
- **Biodiversity:** Enhanced soil health and reducing pressure on adjacent national parks



For more information, please contact: CAPE@fsdafrica.org

CAPE – Carbon Accelerator Programme for the Environment

Unlocking investment for high-integrity and high-impact, nature-based projects across Africa

CAPE's second cohort features three nature-based projects in Ethiopia. CAPE is providing tailored technical and transaction support to enable projects to enhance their investment readiness and attract implementation finance.



The People's Chaka

Scalable, high-integrity forest restoration delivering climate, biodiversity and community resilience outcomes

- **Type:** ARR – Verra VM0047 or Isometric Standard Reforestation Protocol v1.1
- **Location:** South Ethiopia Regional State and South West Ethiopia People's Region
- **Carbon potential:** ~2.4M tCO₂e over 40 years
- **Size:** ~7,000 ha (scaling potential up to 50,000 ha)
- **Developer:** Menschen für Menschen and goodcarbon
- **Community:** >20,000 people benefiting through healthcare, education, WaSH, women's empowerment and job creation
- **Biodiversity:** 7,000 ha. of Afromontane forest restored

AfriScout Regenerative Grazing Project

Supporting pastoral communities to improve grazing practices and restore rangelands

- **Type:** ALM – Verra VM0042 (Agriculture Forestry and Other Land Use)
- **Location:** Oromia, Somali and South Ethiopia regions
- **Carbon potential:** ~15M tCO₂e over 30 years
- **Size:** ~1.2 million ha (with potential to expand further in Ethiopia)
- **Developer:** AfriScout and Global Communities
- **Community:** >60 communities and over 47,000 households currently involved
- **Biodiversity:** 1m+ ha. of pastures restored



Jessica Ayala, Global Communities

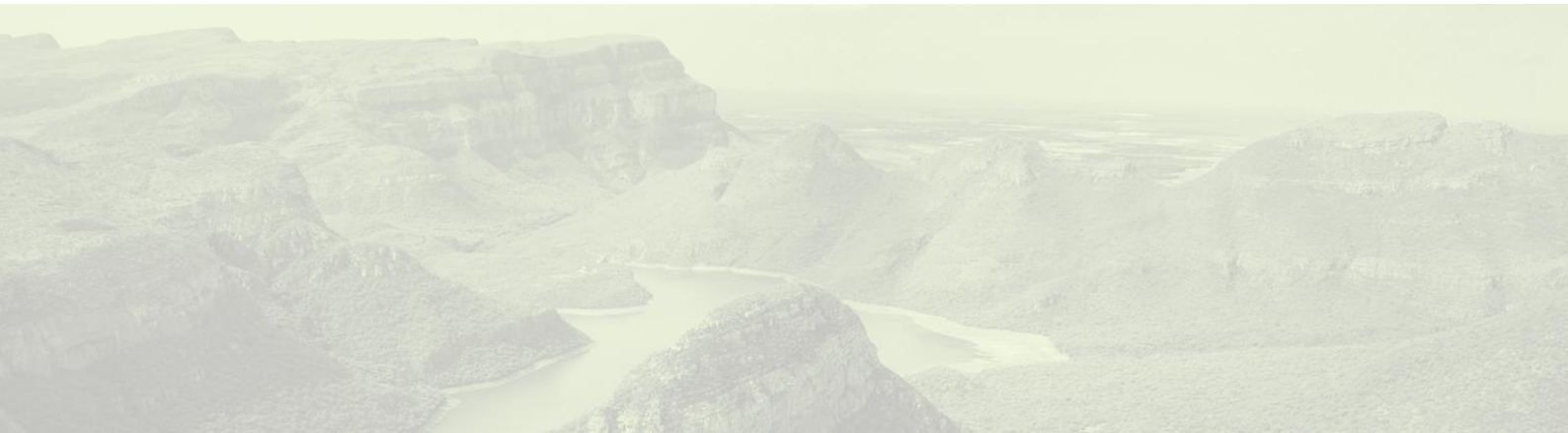


Regenerating Forests and Community Resilience in Ethiopia

Restoring degraded land while creating jobs and strengthening local livelihoods

- **Type:** A/R – Gold Standard Afforestation / Reforestation (A/R) GHGs Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Version 2.1
- **Location:** Ethiopia (first site in Chifra, Afar region)
- **Carbon potential:** ~700,000 tCO₂e over 30 years
- **Size:** 4,500 ha pilot (with potential to scale to 100,000 ha)
- **Developer:** World Vision Australia and World Vision Ethiopia
- **Community:** Strong focus on job creation, local cooperatives, and opportunities for women and youth
- **Biodiversity:** Support the protection of 7 IUCN red-listed species.

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