

Press Release: Dec 19<sup>th</sup> 2023

***The National Council on Climate Change (NCCC), Africa Nature Investors (ANI) Foundation and Africa Carbon Partners (ACP) announce the signing of a MOU to develop voluntary carbon projects and the approval of one of the early nature-based carbon projects in Nigeria, the Gashaka Gumti National Park Carbon Project and the Okomu National Park Carbon Project.***

The MOU sets out the joint intention of the parties to develop voluntary carbon projects in Nigeria in support of Nigeria's national carbon roadmap and the ramp-up of Nigeria's ecosystem restoration program under its NDCs.

The NCCC also authorized two carbon projects for development, including the Gashaka Gumti National Park (GGNP) Carbon Project and the Okomu National Park (ONP) Carbon Project. Combined these projects cover ~700,000 ha of national park and the GGNP Carbon Project will be the largest carbon project in Nigeria.

Gashaka Gumti National Park (GGNP), located in Taraba and Adamawa States, is Nigeria's largest (6,670 km<sup>2</sup>). The park's mountains and dramatic scenery coupled with deep rivers, extensive forests and diverse wildlife makes the park one of the most spectacular in Africa. The rainforest areas of the park include many rare species including West Africa's largest population of Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzees. The bird fauna of the park (one of Africa's "Important Bird Areas") is exceptionally rich, is with more than 500 species.

Salisu Dahiru, Director General, National Council on Climate Change (NCCC), said: *"Through our partnership with ANI and ACP we are making a great stride in developing Nigeria's carbon ambitions and ensuring we combine prosperity for our communities with protection of our natural resources"*.

Tunde Morakinyo, Executive Director of ANI Foundation, said: *"Given the rich biodiversity and scale of the work to be done to maintain and regenerate these parks, the income from carbon credits will be essential in ensuring the long-term protection of the parks and in supporting prosperity for the communities living around them"*.

Robbie Marwick, CEO, Africa Carbon Partners, said: *"As one of the first carbon project in Nigeria to receive approval, we see this as an incredible opportunity to create a demonstration case that can unlock value for Nigeria and pave the way for many more high integrity carbon projects"*.

**The National Council on Climate Change (NCCC)** is Nigeria's apex climate change regulatory institution and the Nationally Designated Authority and official Focal Point working to address the impacts of climate change in Nigeria. Established in 2021, the NCCC is tasked with providing a platform for collaboration and coordination among various government agencies, the private sector, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders in Nigeria to combat and mitigate the impact of climate change.

**Africa Nature Investors (ANI) Foundation** is a not-for-profit founded by Nigerian professionals committed to bringing best-practice nature conservation to West Africa. In 2017 ANI entered a 30-year co-management Partnership Agreement with the National Park Service to protect and develop Gashaka Gumti National Park. ANI aims to catalyse the participation of African opinion leaders in conservation and to demonstrate that private sector investment in protected areas can enable them to become engines for development locally and nationally.



**Africa Carbon Partners (ACP)** is a carbon development company focused on developing the highest integrity carbon projects in Nigeria. ACP aims to support Nigeria to become a leader in nature-based carbon credits and support the development of a state-of-the-art carbon development and trading market in Nigeria.