



# TOSHIBA CARBON ZERO SCHEME

## UN Sustainable Development Goals

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- > The UN has 17 measurable Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), several of which are supported by the Toshiba CarbonZero scheme. This report focuses on **SDG 15: Life on Land**, explaining the impact of the Toshiba Carbon Zero Scheme and its link to this goal.
- > SDG 15 recognises the extent to which human life depends on the earth for sustenance and livelihoods and recognises how climate change and deforestation are increasing the incidence of drought and hastening the desertification of once arable land. SDG 15 promotes activities to conserve and restore terrestrial ecosystems in order to both support livelihoods and conserve our ecological heritage.
- > The Toshiba CarbonZero Scheme supports the ongoing activities to rehabilitate and maintain boreholes in Uganda. These are mainly boreholes which have fallen into disrepair, denying communities access to safe water and forcing people to burn firewood in order to boil water to make it safe.

### FACTS

- > Current global rates of land degradation are unprecedented, with arable land disappearing at a rate over 30 times the pre-industrial rate. With a growing global population, this exerts immense pressure on increasingly scarce land to yield sufficient food, with this strain leading to short-term measures such as heavy use of chemical fertilisers, which further degrades arable land.
- > Desertification and the loss of forests is having devastating impacts on biodiversity, with 8% of the world's 8300 known animal breeds already extinct and a further 22% considered endangered.
- > Uganda has experienced extensive deforestation in recent decades, with forest cover falling from 3.46 million hectares to 2.3 million hectares between 1990 and 2005. However, the country has ambitious plans to re-establish forest cover and is implementing plans to increase current forest cover from 15% to 24% between today and 2040.

### Ugandan Borehole Case Study

53-year old Sylvia Olet lives in Alip village in Kole district in Northern Uganda. She is a member of the Water Resource Committee (WRC) for the borehole in the village, which was formed when the borehole was rehabilitated under the Toshiba CarbonZero scheme. She recounts how the WRC has been instrumental in raising awareness in the community about the importance of planting and conserving trees around the borehole. The WRC received information when the borehole was formed on the role that trees play in ensuring continuous ground water recharge, due to the manner in which tree roots contribute to the stability and water retention of the soil.

In the past 3 years, the awareness raising of the WRC has led to community efforts to plant trees across 4 square kilometres of the land surrounding the borehole in Alip. Sylvia reports that people recognise the benefits in terms of improved soil quality and combating climate change as well as knowing how the activity helps to conserve groundwater supplies.

Sylvia says: *“This borehole has been very useful to us and in return, we have decided to also look after it well. We are always keeping the surrounding area clean without destroying the vegetation around it. Much as wood fuel has become scarce, we try not to destroy the trees and vegetation around the borehole in search of firewood. To collect firewood, we go to Aminadong forest that is 4km away from where I live. In the past, we were burdened to collect so much firewood to cater for cooking, boiling our drinking water and even sometimes warming water for bathing young children. This is because we*

*were collecting our water from an unsafe open well which has since been abandoned for animals only. With Alip borehole now rehabilitated, we only collect little firewood for preparing meals. The borehole provides a safe water source for drinking and so many other hygiene purposes.”*



Sylvia went on to narrate that her main source of income farming and she organically grows beans, cassava, sweet potatoes, and rice as household and cash crops. She notes that the WRC has been instrumental in promoting organic farming, discouraging people from using chemical fertilisers due to the negative impacts on soil and groundwater quality.

The WRC has big plans to continue supporting the community in improving the environment around Alip by investing a proportion of the contributions it receives from the community into seedling cultivation, which will then be redistributed to households for out-planting. As a WRC members, Sylvia looks forward to the role she will play in supporting livelihoods and protecting the environment in her community.

### Toshiba's contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

This case study shows how the project activities in Uganda contribute to SDG 15 in the following ways:

- Through the project, knowledge has been raised on the importance of planting and protecting trees to ensure that groundwater supplies are preserved, thus creating a positive cycle of respecting the environment and reaping the livelihood benefits.
- The WRC has raised awareness on the benefits of using organic manure rather than chemical fertiliser. This is likewise beneficial for groundwater supplies but also ensures a long-term investment in the land by reducing the degradation inherent in over-reliance on fertilisers.

For more information about the Toshiba Carbon Zero Scheme please visit our website:  
[www.toshibatec.eu/about/sustainability/carbon-zero/](http://www.toshibatec.eu/about/sustainability/carbon-zero/)

In cooperation with



Toshiba Tec Germany Imaging Systems GmbH

Carl-Schurz-Str. 7  
41460 Neuss  
Germany

Website

[www.toshibatec.eu](http://www.toshibatec.eu)