

AFRICA CARBON CREDIT EXCHANGE

**COMPETE CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE BIO-ENERGY  
PROJECTS IN AFRICA: BARRIERS AND OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR FINANCING**

**Ms Sabera Khan  
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## Barriers to Success in CDM Projects in Africa

# BARRIERS TO SUCCESS

## Barriers to the Development of Zambian Carbon Projects

A UNDP report of 2009, highlighted the following major barriers:

- Lack of access to Project Finance to implement Carbon Projects.
- Lack of understanding of Carbon Projects, and the financing structures amongst the local Financiers.
- Lack of technical competencies and professionals to help project promoters develop and implement carbon projects.
- Lack of awareness and knowledge of the opportunities presented by the Carbon Market, at every level of society, from Government, NGO, to Private Sector.

# THE GENERAL FINANCING BARRIERS IN A PROJECT

## Some of the Problems cited by Financiers

- Business Proposals are weak
- Lack of Security or Equity
- Too many risks which are not mitigated
- Inappropriate financing structure for the type of business

## Problems faced by Project Promoters in accessing Finance

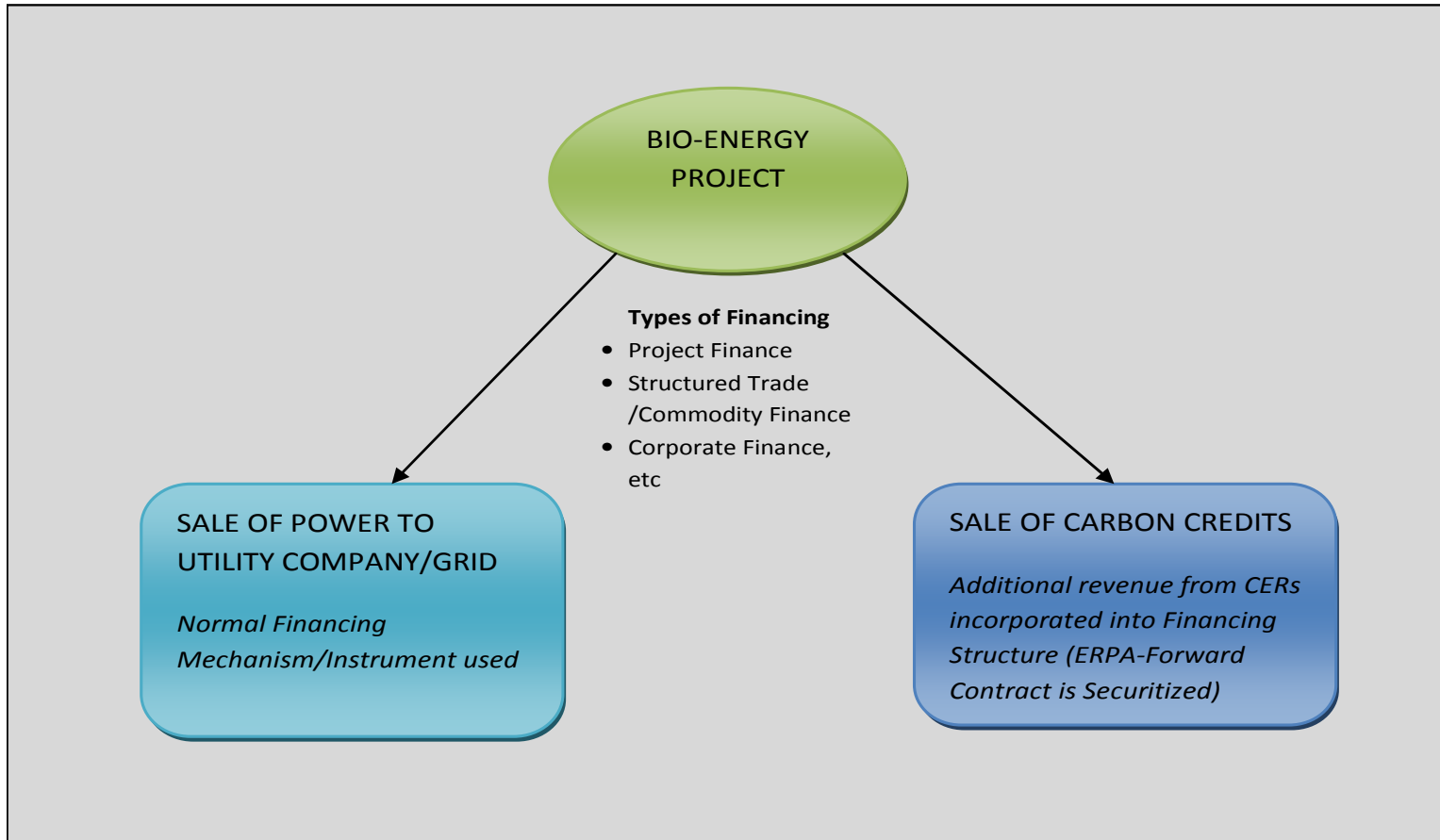
- Lack of Financial Products and Sources of Finance (VC Funds, Govt Funds etc)
- Financiers too Risk Averse, and are unwilling to structure Finance to suit the business
- Lack of skills and competencies in the financial sector
- Decision making process is often too long (In some Banks the decisions are made offshore)





## Financing Options for CDM Projects

# FINANCING CARBON PROJECTS



# STRUCTURING FINANCING OF CDM PROJECT

## TWO MODELS OF FINANCING

### •Emission Reduction Purchase Agreement (ERPA)

- Buyer purchases CERs from project owner under a contract for sale and purchase and provision of services called an ERPA
- Payments for CERs often are structured as up-front payments, at a discounted price. This is when the buyer provides project development services
- Buyer will often sell CERs on the secondary market
- Title to CERs vests initially with the project owner
- In the Off-take model, up-front payment is less likely, and CER payment is made against delivery under the ERPA

### •Project Development Agreement (PDA)

- Investor involved in the project from early stages, and provides development services
- As part of equity deal, investor and project owner share carbon, and non-carbon revenue
- CERs are assigned to the investor for sale at best price
- Project owner responsible for sale of non-carbon assets
- % share of revenue through carbon and non-carbon sale agreed



# TYPES OF CER TRADES

- **Spot Trade**

- Sale concluded after issuance of CERs
- Highest price (prone to price movement risk until issuance)
- Use spot ERPA.

- **Forward**

- Sell now for future delivery and payment
- Project owner avoids price risk, but no up-front payments
- Discounted price, but buyer takes price risk
- Forward contract can be used as receivables to borrow against
- Use ERPA.

- **Futures**

- Enter a derivative contract for a fixed future price
- Require complex trading arrangements
- Hedges price risk but penalties for non-delivery.



# CONSIDERATIONS FOR SELECTING A STRUCTURE

## ▪ **Conduct an Objective Needs Analysis**

- Analyze your resource base and identify gaps
- Determine how investors/buyers can help bridge those gaps
- Determine the ratio of Equity: Debt required.

## ▪ **Decide on a Suitable Structure based on Cost Benefit Analysis of each option**

- Access to Finance
  - Upfront finance required?
  - Need to secure debt finance (leverage ERPA)
- Access to expertise
  - Foreign Investor able to provide technical expertise
  - Investor reduces owner's control over project
- Risk allocation
  - Project Risks define type and availability of finance
  - Higher risks provide better returns – shared risk and revenue may give greater degree of success
- Regulatory issues
  - What are the regulatory requirements – power sector regulations?
  - Tax incentives for FDI?
  - Can Foreign Investors develop under domestic laws
- Long-term profitability
  - Will you realize most profit under ERPA or PDA Model
  - Which party will commercialize the CERs
  - To what extent will your business depend on carbon and/or non-carbon revenue for long-term profitability?



# Mitigating Risks in Bio-energy Projects

# MITIGATING RISKS

## A Major Consideration in Financing a Bankable Project is Evaluation and Mitigation of Risk

### ■ UNCERTAINTY IN THE MARKET

- Post 2012 Uncertainty & Is the time between now and 2012 too short to start a project?
  - *Post 2012 Funds*
  - *Projects with strong ROI despite CER component*
  - *Taking Equity Positions*
  - *Funds taking on early-on higher risk, leverage Finance*
  - *Forward Contracts*
  - *Consider LDC Credits – untapped opportunity*
- Price Recovery Uncertainty – Linked to the Global Financial Crisis
  - *Global Markets on the rebound*
  - *COP 15 Outcome*
  - *Forecast of Price is High*
- Demand Vs Supply – Current Major Market is EU
  - *Develop Trade within African Continent*
  - *International Pressure on America & Australia*
  - *Forward Contracts*
- African Credit at a premium – Growth & Adaptation Strategy

# MITIGATING RISKS

## ■ PROJECT SPECIFIC RISK

- Bio-Fuels from Crops
  - Government Policy on Bio-Fuels (Mix with National Stock)
  - Government Policy on use of Food Crops
  - Efficiency of Cooperative Model - Supply uncertainty
  - Methodology & Mechanization – Weather patterns
  - Regulatory Issues – incentives?
  - Cost Benefit Analysis for the Country
- Landfill Bio-Methanation
  - Cost Benefit Analysis
  - Leakage & Efficiency Issues
- Biomass
  - Source and sustainability of supply
- Renewable Energy
  - Cost of construction high (hydro)
  - Pricing in PPA unfavourable to investment – tariff adjustment/ incentives

# MITIGATING RISKS

## ■ DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE

- CDM can be complex
  - Seek expertise through consultants or investors
  - Partner with successful developer
  - Ensure project has adequate financial returns
  - Ensure methodology exists
  - Be aware of the long process, and bottle-necks in the CDM process
  - Comply with host country approval criteria

## ■ OTHER MITIGATING FACTORS

- Reliable supply
- Predictable price
- Good equipment
- Appropriately structured finance (Equity: Debt ratio)
- Reliable and Credit worthy Off-take agreements
- Reliable output



## Developing Innovative Products To Address The Financing Barriers In CDM For Africa



# UNLOCKING FINANCE FOR AFRICA

## ENGINEERING PROBLEM SPECIFIC SOLUTIONS TO CDM PROBLEMS:

### ❑ LLOYDS CREDIT ENHANCEMENT FUND

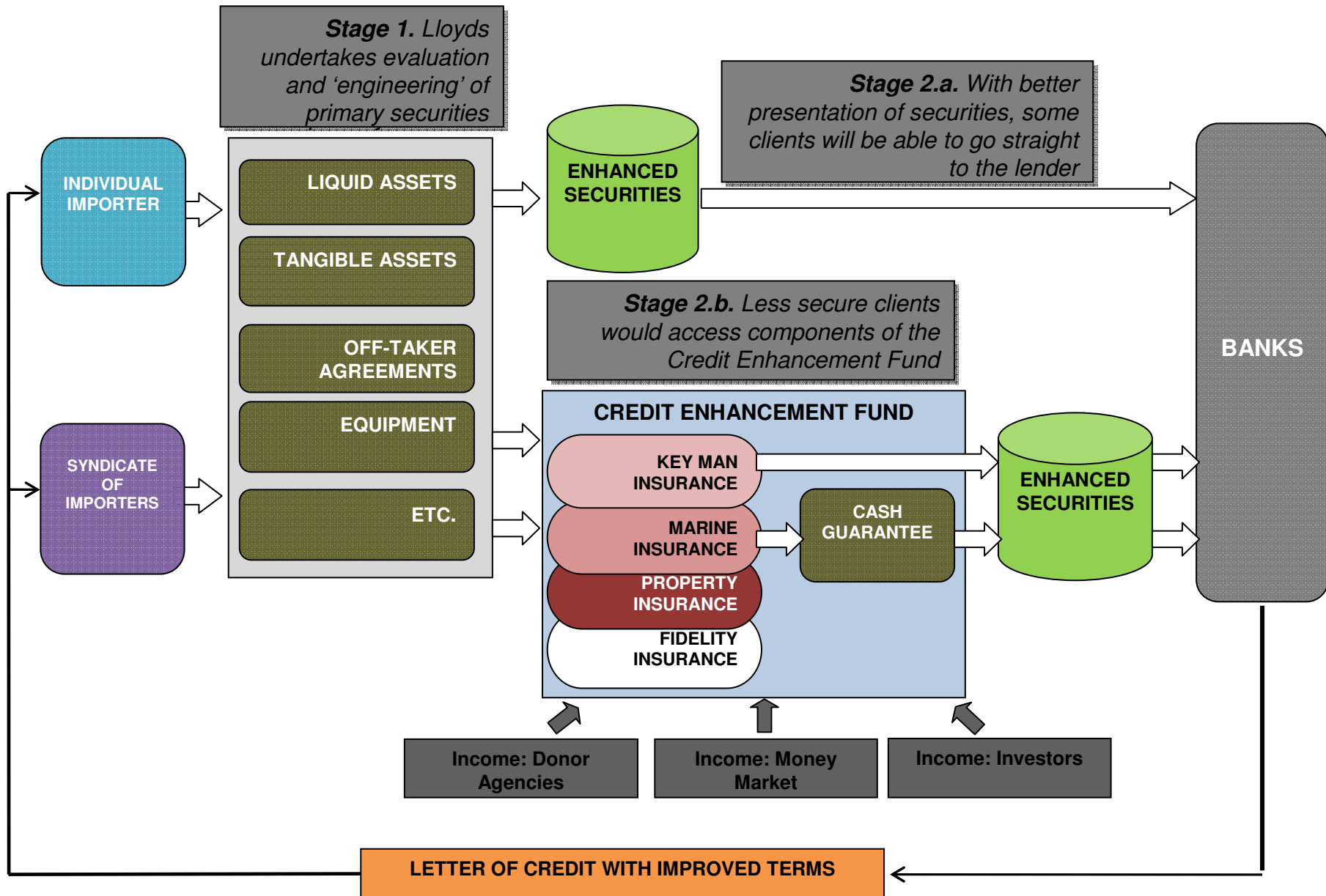
- Able to unlock financing for CDM projects, including p-CDM
- Enables growth of importers of renewable energy technologies, and hence increased use of these technologies
- Reduces risks for Local FIs to fully participate in CDM
- Enhance and compliment financing capacity of other FUNDS, like AREED, ACCE – Carbon Fund

### ❑ AN EXAMPLE OF HOW TO USE LCEF

- Acquiring Renewable Energy Technologies:
  - To Electrify villages
  - To power irrigation system thereby helping rural communities with alternative economic activity other than manufacturing charcoal.
- Small scale farmers can now be aggregated:
  - To enhance their capacity to borrow
- Once issues of mechanization, skills transfer and farming methods, access to inputs and equipment, and access to markets are resolved, small scale farmers would be able to grow.



# Lloyds Credit Enhancement Fund



# UNLOCKING FINANCE FOR AFRICA

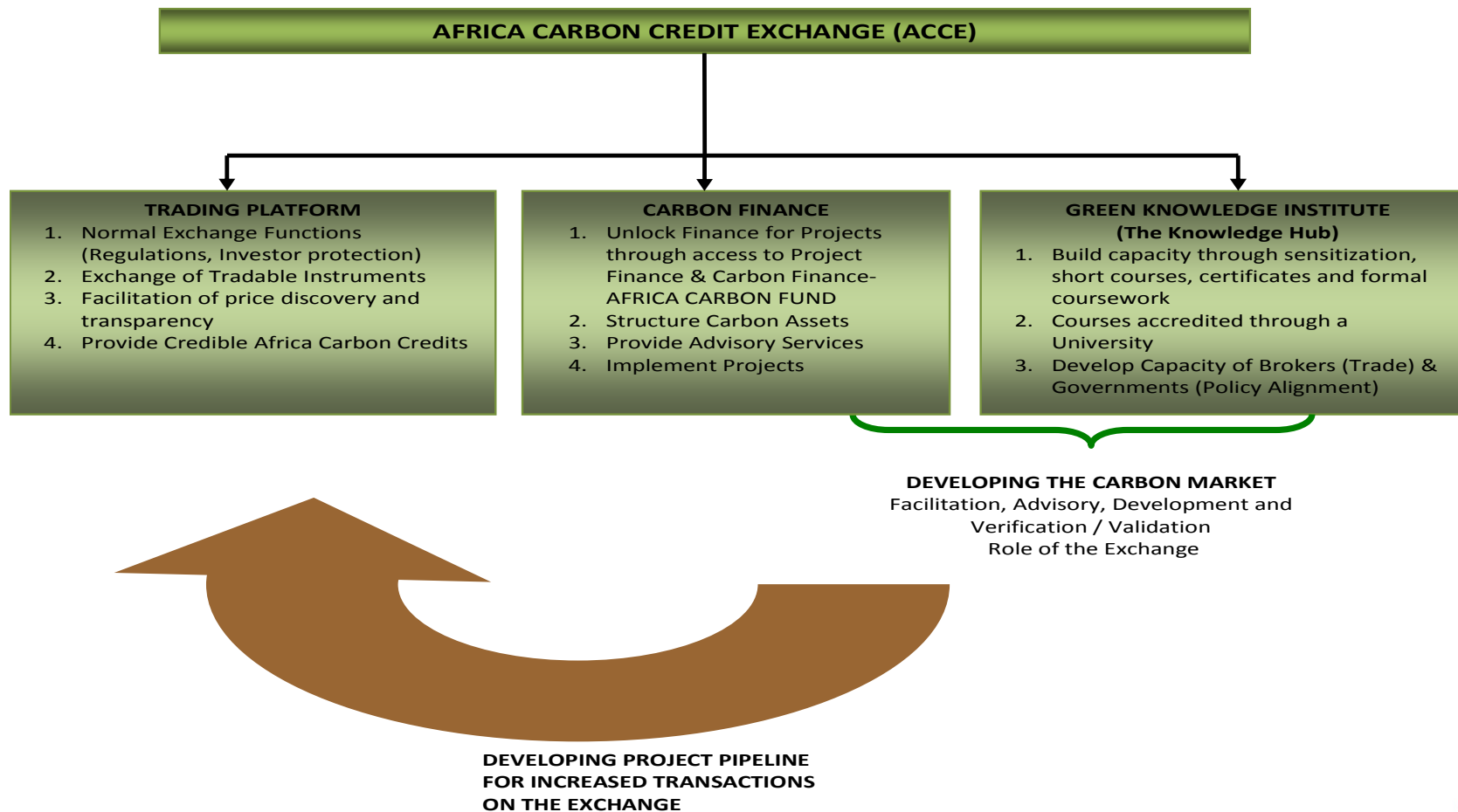
## ENGINEERING PROBLEM SPECIFIC SOLUTIONS TO CDM PROBLEMS:

### □ AFRICA CARBON CREDIT EXCHANGE (ACCE)

- The Design of ACCE takes into account the Barriers to Success and Lessons learnt from other African Exchanges.
- The supply/volume of Carbon Credits into ACCE shall be developed purposefully through the Africa Carbon Fund and Green Knowledge Institute, to unlock both Finance and Technical Capacity.
- The Trading Platform provides the medium for transaction, and supporting structures in the form of brokers in every country.



# THE UNIQUE DESIGN OF THE AFRICA CARBON CREDIT EXCHANGE (ACCE)



# CONCLUSION

## **I wish to conclude the presentation by saying that:**

- Unlocking Finance to support CDM, and Bio-Energy Projects has to be a deliberate programme and process in Africa,
- Many of the traditional lending structures on the ground may not be appropriate to cater for the needs of CDM,
- Most FIs in Africa do not understand CDM and are not willing to change traditional lending practices,
- We must find African Solutions to African Problems, and tap into the global technical expertise to assist Africa market its opportunities and develop sustainably,
- We must ensure we cater for Africa's needs in the coming negotiations for the reforms in CDM (Hydropower, Agriculture, etc)
- LCEF and ACCE are a mechanisms through which Finance can be unlocked for CDM
- LCEF and ACCE in their structures mitigates risks to enable traditional FIs feel comfortable to participate in financing CDM projects.



## CONTACT DETAILS

**AFRICA CARBON CREDIT EXCHANGE**  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Godfrey House. Kabelenga Road.  
P.O. Box 390035  
Lusaka. Zambia

**Lloyd Chingambo, Ph.D.**

Chairman  
[lchingambo@lloydsfinancials.co.zm](mailto:lchingambo@lloydsfinancials.co.zm)  
[lchingambo2@yahoo.com](mailto:lchingambo2@yahoo.com)

**Sabera Khan**

Acting Chief Executive Officer  
[skhan@lloydsfinancials.co.zm](mailto:skhan@lloydsfinancials.co.zm)  
[obiwanp@yahoo.com](mailto:obiwanp@yahoo.com)

**Warren Burns, Ph.D.**

Director  
Treasurer, South African CDM Association  
[neurofinance@gmail.com](mailto:neurofinance@gmail.com)

**Francis Yamba, Ph.D.**

Director  
CEO: Centre for Energy, Environment &  
Engineering  
[ceeez@coppernet.zm](mailto:ceeez@coppernet.zm)

[www.africACCE.com](http://www.africACCE.com)

**Africa Carbon Credit Exchange Telephone: +260-1-238473/2 Fax: +260-1-238471**

