

Our indirect environmental impact

The financial services industry generally has a low direct impact on the environment, but the indirect environmental and social impacts of the projects we finance can be material. We are proactive in our approach to environmental and social risk management and go beyond minimum compliance, and are realising the commercial opportunities that arise in addressing environmental challenges.

RCM AFS SR For more information refer to our sustainability report.

Underwrote **R2,1 billion** for one concentrated solar power project and one photovoltaic project with an installed renewable energy capacity of 175 megawatts in the third phase of the REIPPP programme.

Signed the 2014 Global Investor Statement on Climate Change calling for world governments to take action to close gaps, weaknesses and delays in energy policies.

Acted as co-arranger on the City of Johannesburg's green bond, the first listed green bond in South African debt capital markets.

Scored 80% (2013: 71%) in the Carbon Disclosure Project and we were one of only nine companies in South Africa that were included on their Climate Performance Leadership Index A-list.

35 million tons of greenhouse gas abated as a result of our carbon financing (2013: 37 million tons).

In South Africa, **16,8 million electronic statements** delivered, 27% of the total volume of statements covering transaction products, VAT statements, vehicle and asset finance, home loans and card.



Climate finance

During 2014, we continued to finance renewable energy projects across Africa and to develop commercial financing solutions to support the growth of low-carbon and clean technology projects. The sale of 60% of our global markets business in London to ICBC includes the carbon trading desk.

Carbon trading and clean development mechanism (CDM)

The CDM under the Kyoto Protocol is the global market for carbon credits overseen by the United Nations. It allows industrialised countries to help reduce global emissions by investing in sustainable development projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions in developing countries. **During 2014, we were involved in 82 CDM projects, of which 60% were in Africa (2013: 76 projects of which 65% were in Africa).** We have established a number of programmatic CDM registrations to enable organisations to avoid the cost of individually registering an energy efficiency project and to generate carbon credits sooner. **A total of 84 projects were included in our programmatic CDM portfolio (2013: 64), abating approximately 21 million tons of emissions (2013: 17 million tons).**

Clean energy and energy efficiency

In South Africa, we remain active in the REIPPP programme which is aimed at securing a total of 17 800 megawatts of renewable energy by 2030. Local manufacturing requirements are structured into the construction and operation of the projects, creating opportunities for job and wealth creation. It is compulsory for the project deals to include local communities as equity participants, funded by local development finance institutions. **In the third phase of the REIPPP programme, we were awarded two bids with an underwriting value of R2,1 billion.**

