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Scientific Certification Systems Validates Conservation Fund's Latest Go Zero Carbon Offset Project to Gold Level

Marais des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge Restoration Initiative in Kansas Meets Highest Climate, Community & Biodiversity Alliance Standard

August 4, 2009 – Emeryville, CA – The Conservation Fund's *Marais des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge Restoration Initiative* has been validated by Scientific Certification Systems as meeting the requirements of the Climate, Community & Biodiversity standards.

The SCS Greenhouse Gas Verification program conducted both desk and field-based assessment activities in its evaluation of the Fund's project. SCS found that, in addition to conforming to the 15 required CCB criteria, the *Marias des Cygnes Initiative* meets eight additional, optional-CCB criteria qualifying the project for Gold Level status.

"The *Marias des Cygnes Initiative* is the second CCB project Scientific Certification Systems has validated for The Conservation Fund," says Dr. Robert J. Hrubes, SCS Senior Vice President. "With the experience the Fund gained from their previous *Red River Initiative* and the diligence they put toward developing this one, we were able to conduct a thorough audit in a very efficient manner."

Over the next 100 years, the recently restored Marais de Cygnes refuge, a 776-acres native bottomland hardwood forest in eastern Kansas, is projected to sequester 336 metric tons of CO₂e per acre. In addition to combating climate change, The Conservation Fund's most recent *Go Zero* project helps conserve biodiversity and support local communities.

"Go Zero donors are providing critical, private capital that will help address two of the most extraordinary environmental challenges of our time – climate change and habitat loss," says The Conservation Fund's Go Zero director, Jena Meredith. "The CCB Gold Level validation by Scientific Certification Systems ensures these donations result in real, measurable results to

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help stabilize climate change and restore important wildlife habitat on behalf of the National Wildlife Refuge System and the American people."

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Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) has been providing global leadership in third-party environmental and sustainability certification, auditing, testing and standards development for more than 25 years. SCS programs span a wide cross-section of industries, recognizing achievements in green building, product manufacturing, food and agriculture, forestry, retailing and more. The SCS Greenhouse Gas Verification Program provides verification of project-based emissions reductions, project design validation and pre-assessment analysis. SCS is accredited to ISO 14065 for GHG validation and verification by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and, under this accreditation, offers Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS) and Climate Action Reserve (CAR) offset verification services. SCS also offers offset verification services under the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX) and the Climate, Community and Biodiversity (CCB) standards.

<http://www.SCScertified.com>

The Conservation Fund is dedicated to advancing America's land and water legacy. With our partners, we conserve land, train leaders and invest in conservation at home. Since 1985, we have helped protect more than 6 million acres, sustaining wild havens, working lands and vibrant communities. We're a top-ranked conservation organization, effective and efficient.

<http://www.conservationfund.org>

Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards evaluate land-based carbon mitigation projects in the early stages of development. The CCB Standards foster the integration of best-practice and multiple-benefit approaches into project design and evolution. The Standards identify projects that simultaneously address climate change, support local communities and conserve biodiversity; promote excellence and innovation in project design; and mitigate risk for investors and increase funding opportunities for project developers.

<http://www.climate-standards.org>

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