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Scientific Certification Systems Validates Unique Ducks Unlimited Carbon Offset Project in Prairie Pothole Region of the Dakotas

***Following Climate, Community and Biodiversity Standards
Provides Reduced Emissions and Increased Habitat Protection***

April 7, 2009 - Emeryville, CA – Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) has validated the *Ducks Unlimited Avoided Grassland Conversion Project* in the Pothole Prairie Region of North Dakota and South Dakota to the Climate, Community and Biodiversity (CCB) standards. This unique conservation and climate project will avoid potential greenhouse gas emissions, support the local community and help protect biodiversity. The Prairie Pothole Region, also known as the "Duck Factory," is considered the most productive waterfowl-breeding habitat on the prairies.

“Scientific Certification Systems provided excellent support. Their professional, independent auditing services allowed the process to flow smoothly, ensuring that our project offers investors’ true multi-benefit carbon credits,” says James K. Ringelman, Director of Conservation Programs for Ducks Unlimited (DU).

The *Avoided Grassland Conversion Project*, developed in collaboration between the Eco Products Fund and Ducks Unlimited, will protect more than 26,000 acres of native grasslands which, in turn, will ensure that thousands of years’ worth of stored carbon will not be released into the atmosphere.

In this unique conservation/climate arrangement, DU acquired perpetual conservation easements from Prairie Pothole Region landowners who will be provided with additional compensation from the sale of the carbon credits. The easements will be donated to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW). As holders of the easements, USFW will monitor the lands to ensure the project’s goals are achieved. DU plans to replicate this model to finance additional conservation projects.

Using Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guidelines, the estimated net change in carbon stocks will result in a reduction of nearly 800,000 metric tons of carbon emissions across the project area over a 99-year period. On average, the project will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by roughly 8,000 metric tons per year.

“SCS’ many years of experience certifying multi-attribute forest management projects under Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) guidelines allow us to apply our expertise to validate multi-attribute projects under the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Standard,” says SCS Senior Vice President Robert Hrubec. “Having a good familiarity of the types of ecological, social and economic objectives these CCB projects aim to achieve, SCS has been successful evaluating this important Ducks Unlimited project in a manner that is scientifically exacting and efficiently executed.”

SCS is verifying additional projects to CCB standards, including reforestation projects in Louisiana and Kansas led by The Conservation Fund, and an improved forest management project in Tasmania.

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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, forestry, retail, agricultural production, fisheries, and energy. SCS is accredited to ISO 14065 for GHG Validation and Verification by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and offers verification under the Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS), the Climate Action Reserve (CAR), the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX) and the Climate, Community and Biodiversity (CCB) standards.

To learn more: http://www.scs-certified.com/forestry/forest_carbon.html

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.

To learn more: <http://www.climate-standards.org/>

Ducks Unlimited is the world's leader in wetlands and waterfowl conservation. Ducks Unlimited conserves, restores and manages wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl, as well as other wildlife and people.

To learn more: <http://www.ducks.org>

The Eco Products Fund is an investment platform focusing on carbon, biodiversity and other environmental market exposures primarily in the US. The fund is managed by New Forests Inc (Washington DC) and Equator LLC (New York City).

To learn more: <http://www.newforests.com.au> and <http://www.equatorllc.com>