



The Shared Wood Company

PRESS RELEASE

Launch of The Shared Wood Company to tackle climate, rural poverty and biodiversity challenges

Paris, February 17th 2022 – The founders, Laurent Valiergue, Juan Carlos Gonzalez Aybar and Clément Chenost, three seasoned professionals who combine a strong expertise in sustainable agriculture, forestry and carbon finance, are pleased to announce the creation in Paris of THE SHARED WOOD COMPANY (SWC)

“Our planet is overheating. We need to pass from 51 GtCO₂eq. /year emissions to net ZERO and the decarbonization of energy and heavy industry, alone, won't suffice. Nature Based Solutions are a key leverage to reverse the trend and reach the Paris Agreement target (1.5°C), and the biodiversity and poverty reduction challenges attached to that mandate. Agroforestry, regenerative agriculture, afforestation, reforestation, forest conservation and ecosystem restoration are key “technologies” to be implemented at scale to reach the goals of the Paris Agreement.”

This new venture aims at building Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) real assets, tackling biodiversity loss, climate change and rural poverty, leveraging the net-zero ambition of its investors and corporate partners to achieve its investment and project development goals.

“We have known each other for a very long time and have previously successfully invested and operated such projects. We think we are particularly well equipped to contribute to tackling this unprecedented challenge through The Shared Wood Company with the support of our Sponsors.”

SWC is starting its operations after having completed its Series-A financing round with the financial support of both AXA IM Alts, a global leader in the alternative asset management industry and through its impact investing strategy, and ENGIE, a global reference in low-carbon energy and services.

The two Sponsors have committed to the capital of the management company for a minority stake to finance the origination and business development plan of SWC.

SWC takes charge of the full NBS project development cycle (design, development, financing, building and operation) and route-to-market of environmental products & services, partnering with key private impact investors and corporate partners looking for climate, community, and biodiversity benefits.

SWC seeks to commit over US\$500m between up-front investment and offtake in NBS field operations by 2028. These operations would generate over 40 million certified emission reductions and/or removals to be produced over two decades measured in tonnes of CO₂ equivalent, with strong environmental and social impacts and aligned with the Paris Agreement regulations.

SWC focuses on NBS assets it knows and understands well, primarily located in Africa, Latin America and Europe. SWC is involved in long-term investments in these environmental assets, to deliver carbon emission reductions or carbon removals, agroforestry and forestry by-products (i.e. green commodities) to be valued through off-take agreements with corporate partners. As a differentiating factor, SWC operates through dedicated local operating entities (OpCos), alone or through joint ventures with local partners, ensuring long term, hands-on management. Instead of purely carbon-focused operations, SWC is constructing sustainable value chains that address unsustainable land use practices, while generating multiple sources of revenue to better capture market value in an eco-friendly manner.

In 2030, research from a variety of reports estimate that the global voluntary carbon market would represent over US\$30Billion in value¹. Thanks to the strong expertise of its three founders who pioneered the Natural Capital investment sector with the establishment and management of cutting-edge private and public investment vehicles in the last decade, SWC will be able to play a significant role in this market through an approach combining carbon and value chains.

About the Shared Wood Company

SWC is a project developer and operator specialized in designing, developing, building and operating Nature-Based real assets related to forest and land (agroforestry systems, forest management units and forest plantations, among others) with the objective of capturing carbon in natural ecosystems for the very long term, while restoring/enhancing biodiversity and supporting local communities in rural areas primarily in Latin America, Africa and Europe.

About the Founders

Laurent Valiergue, Juan Carlos Gonzalez Aybar and Clément Chenost are long-time friends and colleagues with a strong track record in private equity, carbon finance and international development who decided to launch SWC to use the power of impact finance and corporate climate commitments to serve rural communities in Africa, Latin America and Europe.

To know more about SWC, please visit www.thesharedwood.com

Media contact

Poinciana Press Agency
Nicolas Teisserenc
+33 6 18 09 66 90
nicolas@poinciana.co

¹ 2021McKinsey, <https://www.mckinsey.com/~media/mckinsey/business%20functions/sustainability/our%20insights/putting%20carbon%20markets%20to%20work%20on%20the%20path%20to%20net%20zero/putting-carbon-markets-to-work-on-the-path-to-net-zero.pdf>