

# South African auditor may start soon

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Africa could see its first auditor for UN carbon-cutting projects by early next year.

“We are hoping to be on target to be accredited as a full entity ... very early in the new year,” Adam Simcock, founder of Carbon Check, told an industry conference in Cape Town on Wednesday.

The company at the end of September had submitted its application for accreditation to the UN climate change secretariat, Simcock told Point Carbon News on the sidelines of the Carbon Markets Africa conference.

If Carbon Check gets registered as a so-called designated operational entity (DOE), it could be the continent’s first auditor to help a clean development mechanism (CDM) project in Africa get issued with carbon credits, he said.

The South Africa office of PriceWaterHouseCoopers had been registered as a DOE until earlier this year when it resigned without auditing any projects, Simcock said.

“That left a gap,” he said.

The African continent accounts for less than 2 per cent of all registered clean development mechanism (CDM) projects.

Simcock hopes to rely on local knowledge and consultants within the region to help boost the number of registered projects across Africa, the world’s poorest continent and among the most vulnerable to climate change.

He pointed out that project developers should see their costs lowered with a DOE that is based in South Africa, particularly as fees will be based in the local currency and a cut-down in transportation costs.

Some of the biggest auditors in the carbon market are based in Europe.

Simcock said the company is gearing up to work on various CDM projects in places like Ethiopia, Mozambique and Botswana.

He said the company would be “very interested” in helping to structure a programmatic CDM project.

In addition to auditing projects in the compliance market, the company will take on projects for the voluntary offset market, he added.

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