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A team of carbon market experts has launched a company that seeks to unlock capital at scale for nature-based solutions (NBS), focusing on projects in the Global South, they announced on Tuesday.

The firm, Integrity Global Partners, was founded by five experts with a background in carbon markets, conservation, and structured finance, according to a statement announcing its launch.

“There is broad consensus that there is no viable path to achieving the ambitious 1.5C target of the Paris agreement without protecting and restoring nature, yet the current amount of financing going to NBS is less than half of the \$400 billion per year investment that is needed by 2025,” Cheri Sugal, co-founder and chief executive of Integrity, said.

“To channel more long-term and institutional capital to nature-based reductions and removal projects we need to apply new financial instruments and work together across the sector to enhance the credibility of NBS assets coming into the market,” she added.

The five co-founders – Sugal, Edit Kiss, Karin Berardo, Naomi Swickard, and Tauni Berger – have previous experience at a range of companies, including Conservation International, Terra Global Capital, Althelia Ecosphere, Mirova, Revalue Nature, the Nature Conservancy, Verra, and Xpansiv, according to the statement.

Naomi Swickard was also until recently the head of public affairs at carbon credit provider South Pole, having [joined](https://carbon-pulse.com/189550/) that firm for only 10 months after working at standards agency Verra for 13 years.

Integrity aims to bring to carbon markets an innovative high-integrity solution to support investors to build nature-based investment portfolios, with fair but attractive risk-adjusted returns and significant co-benefits for communities and

biodiversity, and to deploy capital to nature-based carbon projects in the growing carbon and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) impact markets, according to the statement.

In doing so, the company aims to overcome current challenges facing carbon markets, such as lack of transparency, complex rules, varying quality and fragmentation of the project developer ecosystem, and performance risk, all of which combine to prevent the efficient entry of significant capital into the market.

Integrity will also identify and structure high-quality bankable projects for investors and assist with fund design, portfolio construction, project due diligence, risk management, financial structuring, long-term oversight, execution, and project management.

The company stated that it will team up with partners, including technical advisory firm Space Intelligence, to deliver digital solutions to project identification, monitoring, reporting, and verification, and carbon stock estimates.

“Space Intelligence is delighted to partner with Integrity to provide audit quality satellite-based maps to forest protection projects from their start. Our data enables science-based decisions when choosing project sites and ensures that resulting carbon credits have low uncertainty,” said the company’s co-founder, Ed Mitchard.

Integrity’s approach to working with project partners and clients will be based on a framework that includes following guidance on high-quality project design, such as from the Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market’s Core Carbon Principles, the Tropical Forest Integrity Guide, and guidance from rating agencies such as Sylvera and Calyx Global.

The company will also leverage science-based technical designs, including Verra’s approach to using risk-allocated baselines for REDD+ projects, create significant quantifiable and verifiable SDG benefits, implement revenue share models with communities and government partners, and utilise robust ESG policy and screening tools.

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<https://www.carbon-pulse.com/198194/press-release-carbon-pulse-integrity-space-intelligence-team-up-to-launch-new-firm-to-develop-nbs-projects>