

## **BEAM-backed BBOXX Togo launches *Tomorrow's Connected Community***

**24 April 2019, Geneva** – BBOXX Togo, a next generation utility and investee of BEAM, the investment platform created by Bamboo Capital Partners ('Bamboo'), has today launched a new concept called *Tomorrow's Connected Community*.

The concept brings BBOXX's mission to life by transforming lives and unlocking the economic potential of entire communities in developing countries through access to energy. *Tomorrow's Connected Community* is being rolled out in the rural village of Sikpé Afidégnon in Togo, following its inauguration by the H.E. President Faure Gnassingbé, President of the Republic of Togo.

The entire village, comprised of 300 houses and 4,000 people, is to be powered by solar electricity including streetlights, households, schools and small shops. The community can also access other utility products and services, such as clean cooking solutions, internet services and water pumps.

The launch of *Tomorrow's Connected Community* follows BEAM's initial investment in BBOXX Togo in October 2018, which financed and accelerated the growth of the joint venture. It is proof of concept and shows that BEAM is delivering on its vision to provide energy services that will transform lives in emerging markets, with 1.1 billion people still without access to energy.<sup>1</sup>

Furthermore, today's launch reaffirms Bamboo's commitment to generating a positive environmental and social impact in Togo, following the recent launch of the BLOC Fund, a first-of-its-kind blended finance technology impact fund which received a first loss commitment from the Government of Togo.

**Florian Kemmerich, Managing Partner of Bamboo Capital Partners, commented:** *"From inception, BEAM had a clear vision to provide millions of people in emerging markets with access to energy to improve their everyday lives. The launch of Tomorrow's Connected Community in Togo proves that significant progress towards this cause has already been*

*achieved. Today's launch complements Bamboo's work in Togo, with the recent launch of the BLOC Fund, and demonstrates our commitment to delivering a positive environmental and social impact for the world's poorest regions through our impact investing platform."*

**Mansoor Hamayun, CEO and Co-Founder of BBOXX, commented:** *"Tomorrow's Connected Community demonstrates our ability to supply electricity and other essential utilities to not only individual households, but to entire communities and businesses. By working with partners, we can truly deliver a decentralised and digitalised future in the developing world at scale. We have shown what can be possible and we look forward to rolling this "community of the future" out across other locations globally.*

*"This launch equally demonstrates our commitment to managing rapid urbanisation and meeting United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 to create sustainable cities and communities – in addition to the other 10 out of 17 SDGs to which BBOXX is also contributing. This marks an important stride towards our vision of achieving 100% electrification for the first time on the continent and beyond."*

**Cina Lawson, Minister of Posts, Digital Economy and Tech Innovation for the Government of Togo, commented:** *"Tomorrow's Connected Community demonstrates the growing potential of the digital economy in Togo. The inhabitants of Sikpé will now have access to energy, which will improve their everyday lives and foster economic development in the region. Our partnership with Bamboo and our commitment to the BLOC Fund is the next logical step in our journey to cultivate technological solutions which will improve the living conditions of people in Togo."*

**-ENDS-**

<sup>1</sup> Energy Access Outlook 2017, <https://www.iea.org/access2017/>

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**About Bamboo Capital Partners (<http://www.bamboocp.com/>)**

Bamboo Capital Partners (“Bamboo”) is a pioneering private equity firm that delivers positive social and financial value. Bamboo invests in businesses primarily in financial services, energy and healthcare that leverage technology to have impact at scale in emerging markets. Founded in 2007, Bamboo is a longstanding sector leader and through continuous evolution has a honed strategy for growth. Bamboo has consistently been recognised as a prolific impact investor, with their funds rated in the top quintile of funds globally since 2013 by GIIRS and as a Best for the World Fund by B Lab for the past two years. The firm has a team of 25 professionals active across Europe, South America, Africa and Asia.