

## NEWS RELEASE

### BlueOrchard closes the largest ever global private equity microfinance fund - Bamboo Finance successfully closes additional round for its Oasis Fund

- **BlueOrchard Private Equity Fund closes at \$195m**
- **Bamboo Finance's Oasis Fund reaches \$48m**
- **Funds provide risk capital to Microfinance Institutions and to other companies that serve low-income communities worldwide**

Geneva, 22 July 2010 - BlueOrchard, the global leader and pioneer in commercial investments in microfinance, recently announced the final closing of the BlueOrchard Private Equity (BOPE) Fund at \$195m. The recent investment of \$34.5m by Aabar Investments PJSC establishes the fund as the largest ever global Private Equity microfinance fund. The fund's strong institutional investor base is a further testimony of its key role in the industry.

BlueOrchard, a leader in commercial microfinance investments, has proven in a decade that social and economic investment can create solid returns for investors while at the same time transforming the lives of millions of disadvantaged people. BOPE Fund aims at building additional capacity and at fostering increased efficiency through consolidation in the Microfinance sector.

Aabar Investments PJSC, alongside its investments in the BOPE Fund, also committed \$19.8m to Bamboo Finance's Oasis Fund, which is already establishing itself as one of the global leaders in the field of "impact investing" with a considerable \$48m under management. Bamboo Finance's Oasis Fund, founded by BlueOrchard's co-founder Jean-Philippe de Schrevel looks beyond the microfinance industry to other sectors to create significant social impact and attractive financial returns. Bamboo Finance with its Oasis Fund indeed builds on BlueOrchard's ten-year track record in microfinance investing and invests in innovative enterprises at the "base of the pyramid" i.e. companies that are targeting low income populations in sectors such as housing, healthcare, education, energy, water and sanitation, which are all essential to improving their quality of life.



Jean-Philippe de Schrevel, Founder and CEO of BlueOrchard Investments and Bamboo Finance said: "Having pioneered debt investing in microfinance for the fund management industry in 2001, we are thrilled to be creating another milestone with private equity. We believe that BlueOrchard's ten year fixed income performance track record proves microfinance is coming of age and that Private Equity, with its long term and collaborative approach, is the next logical step for this investment philosophy, in microfinance and beyond."

He continued: "We are very pleased to welcome Aabar Investments PJSC as one of our key investors in the BlueOrchard Private Equity Fund as well as the Oasis Fund. These two funds are part of our comprehensive approach to profitably channel capital into sustainable, scalable and replicable businesses that have direct positive impact on low income populations around the world."

De Schrevel emphasized that "BlueOrchard and Bamboo Finance are ideally positioned to create synergies at the base of the pyramid and add value and offer new opportunities to investors and clients alike."

- Ends -

## Notes to Editors

### About Bamboo Finance and the Oasis Fund

The Oasis Fund is an investment fund registered in Luxembourg and advised by Bamboo Finance with offices in Geneva, Switzerland, and San Francisco, USA. It invests in innovative, commercially viable enterprises that directly benefit low-income communities by providing access to health care, energy, clean water, housing, education and the like, which are designed to generate significant social impact and solid financial return. The fund has a total subscribed capital base of \$48 million.

Further information about Bamboo Finance and the Oasis Fund can be found at [www.bamboofinance.com](http://www.bamboofinance.com)

### About BlueOrchard and the BlueOrchard Private Equity Fund

The BlueOrchard Private Equity Fund is an investment fund registered in Luxembourg and advised by BlueOrchard Investments. It seeks to forge long-term partnerships with microfinance organizations across the world. It acquires minority stakes in their capital while playing an active governance role by sharing international experience, information, networks, knowledge and by taking an active role at a board level. The fund has a total subscribed capital base of \$195 million.

The BlueOrchard group of companies is made up of two business lines with six offices around the world: BlueOrchard Finance S.A. which since 2001 has provided debt financing



to microfinance institutions, and BlueOrchard Investments, which since 2007 manages investments in the equity of microfinance institutions and network funds.

Further information about BlueOrchard can be found at: [www.blueorchard.com](http://www.blueorchard.com)

#### **About Aabar Investments PJSC**

Aabar Investments PJSC is an investment company headquartered in Abu Dhabi and is listed on the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange. It directly invests in various sectors including energy, infrastructure, real estate, automotive and financial services companies. Its largest stakeholder is the International Petroleum Investment Company, which in turn is wholly owned by the Government of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

Further information about Aabar Investments PJSC can be found at [www.aabar.com](http://www.aabar.com)

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