

News release

## **BlueOrchard reports strong performance and social outreach in 2018 – growth to continue in 2019**

- Further expansion of investor base, global presence and asset class offering
- Flagship fund among the best performing emerging market funds in 2018
- Launch of UCITS Impact Bond Fund to address UN Sustainable Development Goals in emerging markets; Fund exceeds the USD 100m investment mark in less than 5 months
- In excess of 1bn USD in more than 100 institutions across over 40 countries in emerging and frontier markets disbursed in 2018
- Access to financial and related services to more than 37m low-income individuals in emerging and frontier markets provided

*Zurich, 22 January 2019 – Swiss-based impact investment manager BlueOrchard Finance Ltd (“BlueOrchard”) looks back on a very successful 2018, further strengthening its position as the world’s largest asset manager in the field of microfinance. In 2018, BlueOrchard has achieved substantial milestones, placing the firm on a sustained growth path as the leading impact investment manager, further paving the way for a promising and eventful 2019.*

Building on a strong investment pipeline and an expanding investor base with new investors from Japan, Sweden and the UK amongst others, BlueOrchard reports solid performance and growth across all its funds. In addition, BlueOrchard has further increased its global presence by opening a new office in Singapore, underlining its commitment to serve its partners through local expertise and presence. The initiation of the BlueOrchard Impact Summit 2018 also raised awareness for investment needs in developing countries by bringing together important decision-makers from academia as well as the private and the public sector.

With the launch of its first UCITS-compliant fund, the Emerging Markets SDG Impact Bond Fund, BlueOrchard now offers retail and institutional investors a scalable and liquid alternative to traditional microfinance funds since August 2018.

*“2018 has been a very successful year for BlueOrchard, in which we again delivered a strong performance and celebrated the 20th anniversary of our flagship fund. We are excited and proud to see our flagship fund being among the best performing emerging market funds in 2018. We would like to thank our existing and new investors for the continued trust they have placed in us and look forward to providing our partners around the world with the best possible impact solutions in 2019”,* said Patrick Scheurle, CEO of BlueOrchard.

*“Investors increasingly show a strong commitment to impactful investing. With almost 20 years’ of experience, BlueOrchard is well placed to accommodate these investors, providing them with innovative opportunities to contribute to solving pressing global challenges such as poverty, inequality and the consequences of climate change. There is no greater return on investment than protecting our planet and creating a more equitable world for present and future generations,”* said Peter A. Fanconi, BlueOrchard’s Chairman of the Board.

In 2019, BlueOrchard will continue along this path, focusing on addressing the funding gap for green infrastructure projects at a sub-national level across African countries and further developing access to climate insurance products for the most vulnerable to climate events around the world.

### **About BlueOrchard Finance Ltd**

*BlueOrchard is a leading global impact investment manager. The firm is dedicated to fostering inclusive and climate-smart growth, while providing attractive returns for investors. BlueOrchard was founded in 2001, by initiative of the UN, as the world's first commercial manager of microfinance debt investments. Today, BlueOrchard provides investors around the world with premium investment solutions, including credit, private equity, and sustainable infrastructure. Being an expert in innovative blended finance mandates, the firm is a trusted partner of leading global development finance institutions. With a major global presence and offices on four continents, BlueOrchard has invested to date more than USD 5.7bn across 80 emerging and frontier markets, enabling tangible social and environmental impact. BlueOrchard is a licensed Swiss asset manager of collective investment schemes authorized by FINMA. Its Luxembourg entity, BlueOrchard Asset Management S.A., is a licensed UCITS management company as well as a licensed alternative investment fund manager (AIFM) authorized by CSSF. For additional information, please visit: [www.blueorchard.com](http://www.blueorchard.com).*

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