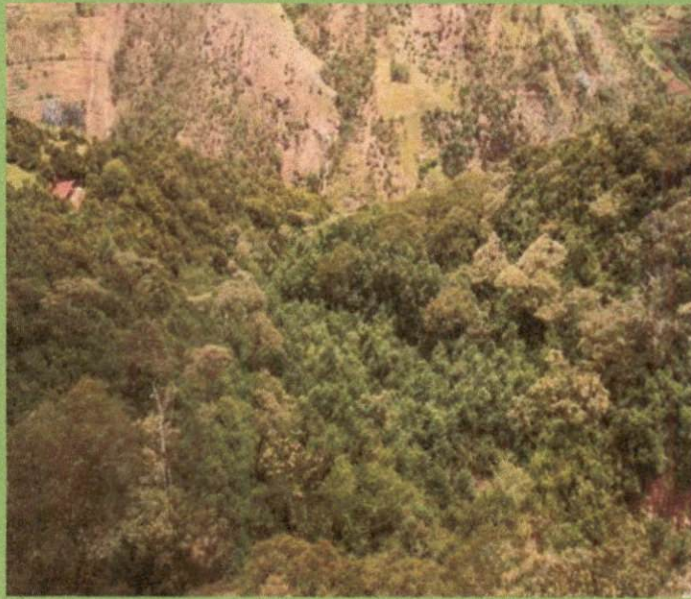


HANDOVER REPORT



BETWEEN



RWANDA ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

AND



NGORORERO DISTRICT

IMPLEMENTATION OF LDCF II PROJECT IN NGORORERO DISTRICT

June, 2023

I. Introduction and background

Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) implemented the project titled: "Building resilience of communities living in degraded forests, savannahs and wetlands of Rwanda through an Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) approach"; abbreviated as LDCF II project an acronym for Least Developed Countries Fund. The project was funded by Global Environment Facility (GEF) through United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) under GEF Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), climate change adaptation focal area. The main objective of the project is to increase capacity of Rwandan authorities and local communities to adapt to climate change by implementing Ecosystem based Adaptation (EbA) interventions in degraded forests, savannahs and wetlands. The project was implemented in Gasabo, Kirehe, Kayonza, Bugesera, Ngororero, and Musanze Districts from 2017 to 2023.

The project had the following three components:

Component 1: National and local institutional capacities strengthened for implementation of EbA approach to increase resilience of local communities to climate change;

Component 2: Policy, planning and legislation strengthened for adaptation to climate change;

Component 3: EbA interventions that reduce vulnerability and restore natural capital.

In close collaboration between the Districts and REMA, LDCFII project was successfully implemented and reduced vulnerability to the negative effects of climate change to the local communities in the sites of the project intervention.

II. General objectives

Rehabilitation of Nyabarongo watershed by protection of Nyiramuhondi riverbanks (10ha) and watershed (100 ha) against the devastating effects of erosion resulting from

various economic activities and restoration of Nyabitukuru/Sanza natural forest by rehabilitation of illegal mining site and enrichment of the forest with indigenous species.

III. Specific objectives

3.1. Specific objectives for Nyiramuhondi riverbanks and watershed protection

- Protection of Nyiramuhondi river banks with bamboos plantation (10ha)
- Construction of radical terraces (100ha) in Nyiramuhondi watershed
- Restoration of Gihe forest (5ha) as contribution of Ngororero district

3.2. Specific objectives for Sanza natural forest restoration

- Rehabilitation of illegal mining sites (1.5 ha)
- Forests enrichment for the area uncovered by trees (6.1 ha)
- Creating a buffer zone by planting indigenous species after determination of the specific area for buffer zone (1.5 ha)
- Protection and guarding of the forests
- Grouping community in cooperative to reduce the encroachment and pressure to the forest and support them in establishment of beekeeping activities to their socio-economic livelihood

IV. Description of implemented activities

4. 1. Nyiramuhondi riverbanks and watershed protection

Activity	Target	Output
1. Plantation of bamboo on Nyiramuhondi riverbanks.	10ha	10 ha of Nyiramuhondi riverbanks has been protected by bamboo plantation
2. Restoration of Nyiramuhondi watershed by construction of the radical terraces (100ha), cows supply (45) and banana plantation (40ha),	100 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The watershed has been restored with radical terraces and agroforestry trees plantation- Soil fertility increased because of organic compost from the given cows and social economic aspects of project beneficiaries increased- Banana crops have been improved from traditional to modern suckers
4. Reforestation of Gihe forest with eucalyptus trees as contribution of Ngororero district	5 ha	Gihe forest is full restored

4. 2. Description of activities for Sanza natural forest restoration

Activities	Target	Output
1. Rehabilitation of the illegal mining sites inside Sanza Forest.	1,5ha	The illegal mining sites are rehabilitated using the environmental techniques (backfilling of damaged site, plantation of indigenous species, setting the guarding

		strategies)
2. Enrichment of the forest by plantation of indigenous species	6.1 ha	The empty space in the natural forest has been restored by using the indigenous species
3. Reinforcement of the buffer zone by plantation of the indigenous species.	1.5 km	The buffer zone is now reinforced

4.3 Budget execution

Project	Total budget (FRW)	Budget disbursement (FRW)	Remaining budget (FRW)	Budget execution in %
Restoration of Nyiramuhondi river (10ha) and watershed (100ha)	302,539,742	302,539,742	0	100%
Restoration of Sanza natural Forest (22ha)	38,358,090	38,358,090	0	100%
Implementation of beekeeping subproject in Sanza natural Forest	63,927,424	63,927,424	0	100%
Rehabilitation of Gihe forest/ Ngororero District contribution	7,786,075	7,786,075	0	100%
Total Cost	412,611,331	412,611,331	0	100%



V. Roles and Tasks of REMA and District

5.1. REMA

During the project implementation REMA was responsible of following tasks:

- To Provide funds related to the implementation of above said subprojects
- Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of project activities
- Sensitization and capacity building of the community

5.2. Ngororero District



- Ensure that project activities are implemented effectively according to the approved work plans and budgets,
- Local community sensitization and mobilization,
- Monitoring of project implementation,
- Sensitization and capacity building of the community,
- Establishment grievances committee in order to overcome some grievances and dissatisfactions that may arise during the project implementation,
- Avail all financial information when required.

VI. Project Implementation activities

Project	Activity	UoM	Overall Targets	Achievement	Overall Achievement in %
Rehabilitation of Nyiramuhondi watershed	Protection of riverbanks (follow up the maintenance activity of Nyiramuhondi river)	Ha	10	10	100%

	Construction of radical terraces (follow up the maintenance and valorization of constructed radical terraces)	Ha	100	100	100%
	Follow up the maintenance of Reforestation of Gihe hill (District contribution)	Ha	5	5	100%
	Supply of cows (follow up the status of cows supplied among community of Ngororero District)	cow	45	45	100
	Banana plantation (reception of compost and banana plantation)	nb	40ha	40ha	100%
Restoration of Sanza Natural Forest	Restoration of mining sites with soil embankment and tree plantation (follow up the maintenance of planted trees)	Ha	1.5	1.5	100%
	Restoration of degraded area in the forest using indigenous species (follow up the maintenance of planted trees)	Ha	6.1	6.1	100%
	Restoration of buffer zone using indigenous species	Km	1.5	1.5	100%







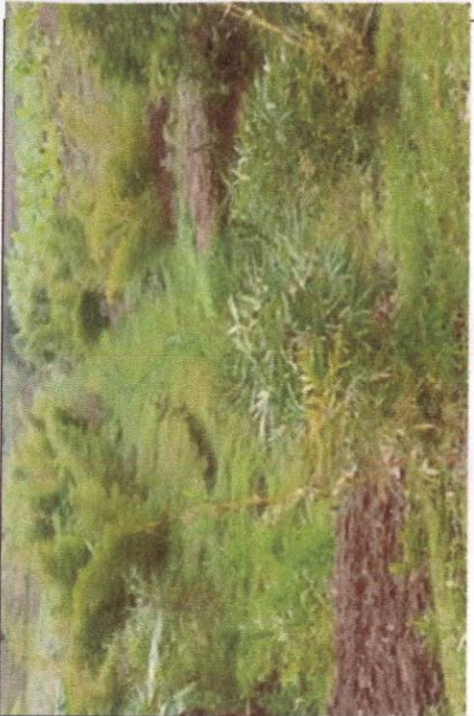
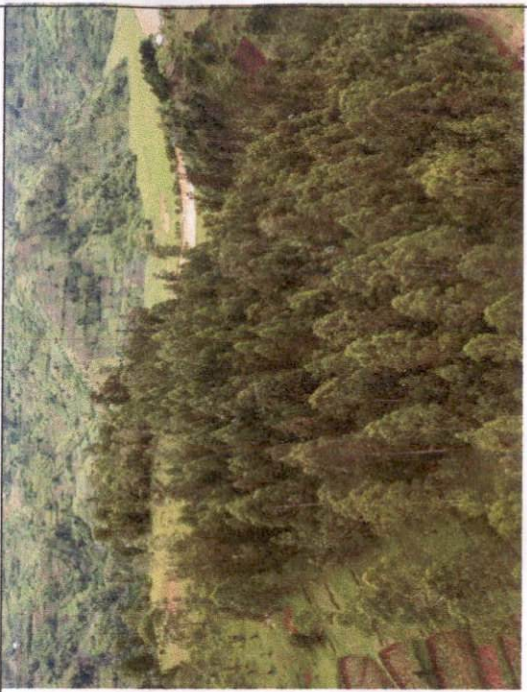
	(follow up the maintenance of planted trees)				
	Removal of exotic species (maintenance of cleaned sites and replanted trees)	Ha	1	1	100%
Execution of beekeeping subproject	Construction of 2 apiaries	nb	2	2	100%
	Supply of beekeeping equipment	nd	nd	nd	100%
	Construction of honey collection center	nb	1	1	100%

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Pictures showing before and after project implementation

Situation before	Current status
	
	

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VII. OUTCOMES

- ❖ **Capacity building:** The project beneficiaries grouped in cooperative of 50 persons (26 women and 24 males were trained) have acquired appropriate knowledge and skills related to beekeeping activities.
- ❖ **Social cohesion built:** the project has increased the social integration, cohesion, trust and solidarity among the community beneficiaries.
- ❖ **Job creation:** the implementation of the sub-projects has provided jobs to the local people hence, enabled them to earn income as well as creating in them the saving spirit and building their capacities on how working with financial institutions and after being employed, they were able to improve their livelihood and increased the business. Some of them constructed the houses, other bought the livestock (Cows and goats). The sub-projects were provided jobs to 2,824 people where 63% were women and 37% were males
- ❖ **Women Economic Empowerment:** the project was gender sensitive hence contributed much to women economic empowerment: most of the women reported that they generated income from the project activities increased their values and confidence since they are now contributing to the household welfare while they were considered as powerless persons.
- ❖ **Soil erosion control:** the radical terraces are used to reduce runoff or its velocity, to minimize soil erosion, to conserve soil moisture and fertility, to facilitate modern cropping operations, to promote intensive land use and permanent agriculture on slopes.
- ❖ **Good participatory/consultative approach:** the implementation of the project generated a behavior change among the beneficiaries; the last are involved in all processes of the project and their views are taken into consideration. E.g. distribution of cows instead of giving them fertilizers.

VIII. Sustainability of project activities

A. Sustainability initiatives

Different strategies have been put in place such as engagement of communities as casual workers in the construction activities, trainings and study tours for learning the success story of their neighbors:

- Local workers during the construction of radical terraces acquired expertise from sustainable Land Management and environment conservation. Thus, skills gained will enable them to "sell" their expertise in the execution of similar projects. Experience has shown according to District authorities, that execution of development projects of terraces by the local experts is more profitable; that firms are eager to make more profit. They have therefore abandoned the option of recruiting such contractors and prefer those trained by the project.

- the trained Community surrounding Sanza natural forest were grouped into cooperative and supported through community driven development sub-projects (beekeeping activities) to increase their livelihood while protecting the restored forest. The technical and managerial training and equipment benefited, allow increase of their income and poverty reduction

The production of one traditional beehive was 6kg per year but targeted with modern beehive is 40 kg per year.

- Ecological sustainability of the project is assessed as highly satisfactory. There are no environmental risks due to the implementation of the project. The project interventions have contributed on fighting land degradation, deforestation, erosion, pollution of water resources and improvement of the bio-diversity conservation and the degradation of fragile ecosystems.

- Furthermore, the planting of bamboo along Nyiramuhondi river, has an importance for stabilization of river banks and being used in bamboo production through nursery preparation

B. Sustainability plan

Responsibility of District

No	Planned activities	Monitoring period
1	Continue the mobilization of project beneficiaries on the maintenance and sustainable valorisation of implemented project activities	Regular
2	Monitoring on the valorisation of project activities (radical terraces, restored forest, distributed cows, planted banana, bamboo planted on Nyiramuhondi river banks, beekeeping activities etc)	Regular
3	Continue the mobilization of project beneficiaries on the maintenance and sustainable valorisation of implemented project activities	Quarterly
4	Mobilizing the funds for rehabilitation of major damaged agricultural infrastructures	When it deems necessary

IX. Lessons learnt

During the project implementation, following lesson learnt have been identified:

- ❖ A big change in behavior by community's beneficiary's in as far as environmental management and natural resources protection was identified,
- ❖ The project contributed to the protection of Nyiramuhondi watershed and its riverbanks which led to the stabilization of riverbanks,

- ❖ Stopping the illegal mining and restoration of damaged area has contributed to the mitigation of landslide occurred in the Sanza forest. This imply that this activity may be duplicated in all mining sites in Rwanda where environment degradation is noted
- ❖ The local miners have been trained on the benefits of ecosystems management for promotion of sustainable mining activities

X. Conclusion and recommendation

Ngororero District District is grateful for the existing collaboration between the Government of Rwanda through Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) under the GEF Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) for the continuous support to Ngororero District. Through this cooperation, all activities under this project costed Four Hundred Four million, Eight hundred Twenty-Five thousand, Two hundred Fifty-Six Rwandan Francs (404,825,256 Fw). Ngororero District is committed for sustainable management of the project achievements and look forward to continuous support to the environmental protection in general and mitigation and adaptation to climate change in particular.

The LDCF II project has been successful in all its activities as planned. Community appreciated the achievements as they were actively involved in all processes including planning and implementation process. Community has gained much knowledge, skills and assets to play their role in environment protection, ecosystem rehabilitation and livelihood support through income generating activities. The community is now witnessing the fruits of these activities as they boosted on considerable development. However, some recommendations and interventions have to be set to ensure sustainability of the project.

1. District will continue the mobilization of the beneficiaries on the maintenance of Sanza natural forest, bamboo, agroforestry trees and radical terraces.


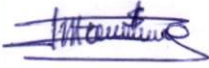


2. District and RAB will keep providing technical assistance to the community and support in maintenance beekeeping project.
3. Ngororero District will make a close monitoring of mining activities around Sanza natural forest which was the main degradation agent of the forest.

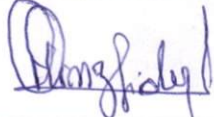
Approved by:

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On behalf of Ngororero District


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On behalf of REMA

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