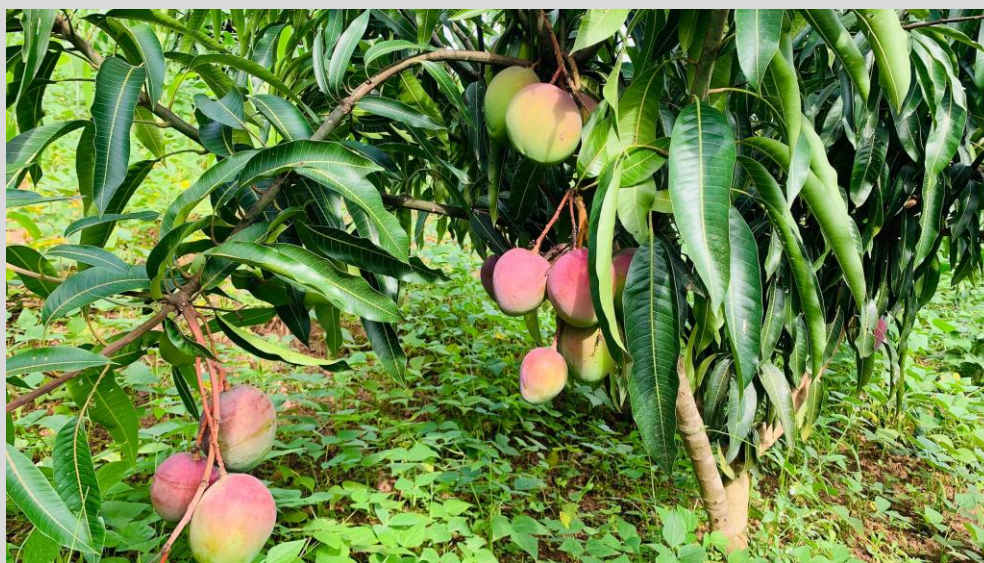


## Forest Landscape Restoration in Mayaga region Project (Green Amayaga Project)

### QUARTER TWO PROGRESS REPORT

*FINANCIAL YEAR 2025*



July, 2025

## I. PROJECT INFORMATION

**Purpose:** This report aims at assessing the progress achievements against the planned results during the quarter as well as risks and issues that could affect project implementation. It is within the scope of project overall objective of securing biodiversity and carbon benefits while simultaneously strengthening the resilience of livelihoods, through forest landscape restoration and upscaling clean technologies in four Districts of Amayaga Region namely Kamonyi, Ruhango, Nyanza and Gisagara.

<b>Project title:</b>	<b>Forest Landscape Restoration in Mayaga Region Project (Green Amayaga Project)</b>	
<b>Project number:</b>	<b>GEF Project ID number: 5702</b>	
<b>Project/UNDP/CPD outcome:</b>	<b>By 2023 Rwandan Institutions and communities are more equitably productively and sustainably managing natural resources and addressing climate change and natural disasters</b>	
<b>NST priorities:</b>	<b>Priority Area number 7 of the NST1: Sustainable management of the environment and natural resources as the pathway to healthy lives and a Green Economy, focusing on Forestry, Land, Water, Environment and Climate Change.</b>	
<b>SDGs:</b>	<b>11: Sustainable cities and communities; 1. No poverty; 2. Zero hunger; 5. Gender Equality; ,13: Climate Action and 15 Life on land</b>	
<b>Project start date:</b>	<b>November 2019</b>	
<b>Project end date:</b>	<b>November 2025</b>	
<b>Reporting period (Q/YYYY):</b>	<b>Q2/2025 “April-June 2025”</b>	
<b>Project budget (USD):</b>	<b>TRAC (core):</b>	<b>USD 1,000,000</b>
	<b>Government of Rwanda (in kind):</b>	<b>USD 25,513,366</b>
	<b>Other donors: GEF</b>	<b>USD 6,213,538</b>
	<b>Total project budget:</b>	<b>USD 32,726,904</b>

## II. RESULTS-BASED REPORTING

### **OUTPUT 1:** *Legislation and coordination mechanisms in place for effective FLR*

**Results achieved and evidence from the starting of the project up to end December 2024** *(Explain the achievements at the output level. Make sure to provide evidence, related data and how it was collected):*

Regarding legislation and coordination mechanisms for effective FLR, the Forest Landscape Restoration in the Mayaga region project has put in place two thematic groups at national level (a national steering committee and national technical advisory committee) and one stakeholder's working group at district level (Kamonyi, Ruhango, Nyanza and Gisagara). The six thematic working groups serve as a robust project management mechanism.

The established steering committee (SC) is composed of various institutions, at central level including Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA), Rwanda Forest Authority (RFA) Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB), National Land Authority (NLA), Rwanda Green Fund (FONERWA), Rwanda Standards Board (RSB), Decentralized entities including Kamonyi, Ruhango, Nyanza and Gisagara districts and UNDP on the part of Development Partners. The Steering committee is chaired by the Director General of REMA and co-chaired by UNDP Resident Representative. The steering committee meets once in 6 months in order to appraise the project implementation progress over the previous 6 months and to approve the plan for the forthcoming 6 months.

The established National technical advisory committee (NTAC) is composed of technical experts from central and decentralized institutions as steering committee as it plays a critical role in quality assurance towards success of the project by providing expert advice, conducting technical reviews, and offering guidance on various aspects of project implementation.

The established Stakeholders working groups are composed of different stakeholders in each District including two representatives from cell levels, 6 representatives from sector levels, 12 district representatives from each district and 1 representative from the provincial level and these groups are effectively contributing to the successful implementation of the project.

Gender inclusivity was also considered in each of the above representatives, 12 members are females while 33 are males for both the NTAC and SC.

#### **Results within the report period (April-June 2025)**

During the reporting period, the final **National Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC)** meeting for the FLR Mayaga Project was held from 9–12 June 2025 across the districts of Nyanza, Muhanga, and Kamonyi. The meeting brought together key stakeholders from

*Green Amayaga Through Forest Landscape Restoration in  
Mayaga Region Project*



REMA, RFA, district officials, and project partners to review project progress, validate exit strategy activities, and conduct joint field visits. Field assessments confirmed the satisfactory status of most restoration and social support interventions, including CDDs, LPG usage, agroforestry, and afforestation. However, several challenges were noted, such as group sustainability concerns, inactive LPG systems in few schools, sand quarry encroachment on buffer zones, and incomplete contractual deliverables. Key recommendations included organizing joint evaluations, reinforcing community ownership, enforcing environmental protection regulations, enhancing monitoring frameworks, and addressing budget reallocation needs ahead of project closure. The meeting concluded with concrete action plans, timelines, and responsibilities to ensure successful project phase-out and sustainability of interventions.

During the second quarter of 2025, four Stakeholder Working Group meetings were successfully held across the four implementing districts, as planned. With the project approaching its completion phase, efforts have been focused on operationalizing the exit strategy, particularly through the review and approval of the developed maintenance and monitoring plans. These activities have involved active engagement of stakeholders at multiple levels to reaffirm their roles and responsibilities in sustaining project outcomes. Special attention has been given to ensuring the continuity of core interventions such as landscape restoration, afforestation, agroforestry, and fruit tree planting. Moreover, significant efforts have been made to strengthen beneficiary ownership, thereby enhancing the long-term sustainability of the project's achievements.

**Completed activities that contributed to the above achievements** *(Explain which activities took place and how they contributed to the achievement of the output. Photos or reports can be added as annex):*

- i. National Technical Advisory Committee meeting was conducted;
- ii. 4 stakeholders working group meetings were conducted at district level in Kamonyi; Ruhango, Nyanza and Gisagara.

**Change in plan** *(what results were not achieved as planned and why):*

N/A

## **OUTPUT 2: Four FLR plans ready for implementation, covering 263,270 ha**

**Results achieved and evidence** *(Explain the achievements at the output level. Make sure to provide evidence, related data and how it was collected):*

The Amayaga region faced the land degradation driven by large-scale deforestation, agricultural intensification, unsustainable land resource management, and climate change with consequent negative impacts on nature and humanity. In order to cope with this issue Government of Rwanda in partnership with UNDP designed a project called Forest landscape restoration in the Mayaga region that aims to securing biodiversity and carbon benefits while simultaneously strengthening the resilience of livelihoods, through forest landscape restoration and upscaling clean technologies in four Districts of the Amayaga region.

Within this frame the project designed the FLR plans-ensuring full participation and gender considerations in all the steps in four Districts beneficiaries namely Kamonyi, Ruhango, Nyanza and Gisagara. The main objective of the FLR Plans is to restore the functions such as protecting water sources, fields, pollination and the provision of food and other materials that trees provide to nature and to people in deforested or degraded landscapes.

### **Results within the report period (April-June 2025)**

The published FLR Plans have played a pivotal role in facilitating the CEO Endorsement of newly developed projects that build on forest landscape restoration approaches, including Ecosystem-Based Restoration Approach for Nyungwe-Ruhango Corridor Project under GEF-8 and the Building Community Resilience and Transforming Livelihoods through Systems-based Adaptation and Integrated Resource Management in Rwanda's Southern Province under LDCF IV initiative.

**Completed activities that contributed to the above achievements** *(Explain which activities took place and how they contributed to the achievement of the output. Photos or reports can be added as annex):*

Stakeholder consultations on the published Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) Plans for Gisagara, Kamonyi, Nyanza, and Ruhango Districts to inform the development of new FLR initiatives.

**Change in plan** *(what results were not achieved as planned and why):*

N/A

**OUTPUT 3: Training programs implementation for all stakeholders, increasing the average individual score on the UNDP Capacity Assessment by 25 percentage points for all stakeholder groups.**

**Results achieved and evidence** *(Explain the achievements at the output level. Make sure to provide evidence, related data and how it was collected):*

As the "Forest Landscape Restoration in the Mayaga region" is one of the initiatives that are being implemented to contribute to Rwanda's commitment to the Bonn Challenge and also it is in line with Rwanda vision 2050. The project has also set mechanisms to increase

the individual, institutional capacities to enable its implementation in four districts (Kamonyi, Ruhango, Nyanza, Gisagara).

After comprehensive trainings of trainers in collaboration with a hired civil society in charge of community capacity building (APEFA) and districts beneficiaries, various groups were formed including 40 Farmer field school groups for climate smart agriculture, 20 Forest Management Units, 24 environment committees (20 committees at sector levels and 4 at District levels), 40 environment clubs at schools levels (2 each District) and 42 Community Driven Development groups all over the project intervention areas and they have significantly contributed to the project implementation progress, the dissemination and replication of the knowledge and skills gain from the aforementioned trainings. During the monitoring and evaluations on knowledge and skills transfer, we noticed that among **40** farmer field schools formed and **416** Farmers that were able to replicate climate smart agriculture practices in the own farms.

In order to increase the average individual score on the UNDP Capacity Assessment by 25 percentage points for all stakeholder groups, training programs for all stakeholders with the main objective to understand how Rwanda is dealing with the FLR through putting in place the enabling environment, various trainings and capacity building sessions on topics such as climate smart agriculture, Forest Management plan and practices were conducted. So far, a total of **6,538** project beneficiaries underwent training, with **3,396** of them being female participants.

A capacity assessment in the Green Amayaga project area of intervention as per end-term review report has confirmed that the average individual score on the UNDP capacity Assessment has increased at **26.1 %** points for all stakeholder groups which exceed the planned of **21.4%** points.

### **Results within the report period (April-June 2025)**

During the second quarter of 2025, training activities were conducted in a hands-on format with a strong emphasis on maintenance practices to ensure the sustainability of landscape restoration efforts. Key achievements include:

1. Training of Trainers (ToTs) on Landscape Restoration: These sessions equipped designated project beneficiaries with essential skills to sustain and maintain restoration interventions, reinforcing long-term impact through land and trees husbandry skills and forest management practices;
2. Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) ToTs: A strong focus was placed on practical knowledge transfer. As a result, newly trained beneficiaries have already begun applying CSA techniques on their farms, enhancing climate resilience and productivity;

3. Following an in-depth assessment of the financial support utilization by Community-Driven Development (CDD) groups, a comprehensive training was organized to strengthen group and cooperative management. The training also aimed to reinforce leadership capacities within the CDD groups to ensure more effective governance and sustainable implementation of sub-projects.

**Completed activities that contributed to the above achievements** *(Explain which activities took place and how they contributed to the achievement of the output. Photos or reports can be added as annex):*

- Monitoring sessions were carried out for Farmer Field School (FFS) groups practicing Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA), as well as for trainers overseeing maintenance activities. These sessions aimed to strengthen knowledge transfer and enhance community capacity across all four project districts;
- Additional monitoring sessions were conducted in all four districts to assess the implementation progress of sub-projects financed under the Community-Driven Development (CDD) approach. These evaluations focused on ensuring accountability, effectiveness, and sustainability of the supported initiatives.

**Change in plan** *(what results were not achieved as planned and why):*

N/A

**OUTPUT 4: Institutional capacity for the extension service and community knowledge sharing forums increased by 25 percentage points on the UNDP Capacity Assessment for all stakeholder groups.**

**Results achieved and evidence** *(Explain the achievements at the output level. Make sure to provide evidence, related data and how it was collected):*

Strengthening institutional capacity is one of the challenges faced by Rwanda as it works to fulfill the FLR amid the declining forestry products due to ecosystems degradation, pollution and climate change. Forest Landscape Restoration in the Mayaga region project has initiated community capacity building component to raise the capacity for the extension services and community knowledge sharing forums by 25% points on the UNDP Capacity Assessment for all stakeholder groups.

After training on various important topics on environment management and climate change mitigation and adaptation, land and trees husbandry climate smart agriculture, Community Driven Development sub-project to increase institutional capacity for the extension service and community knowledge sharing forums increased by 25 percentage points on the UNDP Capacity Assessment for all stakeholder groups. So far, a total of **6,583** project beneficiaries underwent training, with **3,418** of them being female participants.

A capacity assessment in the Green Amayaga project area of intervention as per end-term review report has confirmed that the extension service and community knowledge sharing forums have increased at **26.81** percentage points for all stakeholder groups.

### **Results within the report period (April-June 2025)**

During this quarter, Community-Driven Development (CDD) groups were closely monitored to ensure the effective implementation of their sub-projects. These efforts aimed to both strengthen the performance of CDD-supported initiatives and safeguard the integrity of existing landscape restoration interventions.

**Completed activities that contributed to the above achievements** *(Explain which activities took place and how they contributed to the achievement of the output. Photos or reports can be added as annex):*

- Monitoring for environmental club members and school garden of 8 schools on tree management were organized and conducted;

**Change in plan** *(what results were not achieved as planned and why):*

N/A

### **OUTPUT 5: Monitoring & evaluation plans, knowledge management and gender mainstreaming strategy in place**

**Results achieved and evidence** *(Explain the achievements at the output level. Make sure to provide evidence, related data and how it was collected):*

The importance of Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) as a planned process for ecological recovery and community well-being in deforested and degraded landscapes. Key aspects of FLR include:

**Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E):** Which critically has a role of participatory M&E in FLR projects;

**Gender Mainstreaming:** Gender equality and women's empowerment are vital for sustainable development and the significance of embedding gender considerations in FLR projects. **Community Engagement:** The success of FLR projects depends on the full engagement of local communities who are both beneficiaries and stakeholders. Project development should address area-specific needs and draw on local knowledge and experiences. A participatory approach involving all stakeholders is essential for effective decision-making.

Indeed, the significance of participatory M&E, gender mainstreaming, and community engagement in FLR projects to achieve ecological and social restoration goals. These elements are critical for the success of FLR initiatives at local, national, and global levels.



In this context, the Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) in the Mayaga Region Project has developed three key studies that have significantly supported project implementation and are expected to inform future FLR initiatives. These studies include:

1. The development of a **Knowledge Management Plan for FLR practices in Rwanda**;
2. A **Participatory and Gender-Inclusive Monitoring and Evaluation Plan** tailored for FLR in the Mayaga region; and
3. A **Technical Note** outlining the **criteria and thresholds for recognizing a well-established young forest plantation**, intended to guide the acceptance of plantation works.

While these studies have been instrumental in informing ongoing project activities and developing future initiatives, no additional outputs have been recorded under this component during the reporting quarter.

**Completed activities that contributed to the above achievements** *(Explain which activities took place and how they contributed to the achievement of the output. Photos or reports can be added as annex):*

N/A

**Change in plan** *(what results were not achieved as planned and why):*

N/A

#### **OUTPUT 6: Management enhanced on 555 ha of high conservation value forest, including increased protection status of 354 ha of the 555 ha**

**Results achieved and evidence** *(Explain the achievements at the output level. Make sure to provide evidence, related data and how it was collected):*

Forest ecosystems are important habitats for a vast number of species worldwide. However, these ecosystems are degrading faster than they are regenerating, due to the increased demand for natural resources and the continued application of non-sustainable practices by humans. Additionally, over the last centuries, vast forest areas worldwide have been cleared to meet the needs of a growing population.

The Mayaga region in Rwanda's Southern Province harbours 0.14 percent of natural forests and 10 percent of man-made plantations of Rwanda's total forested area. The 555ha of natural forests and the many and scattered patches of indigenous forests in the region host important biodiversity and carbon stocks and provide critical watershed services to the agricultural landscapes surrounding them. The area has been highly exposed to forest degradation, which has taken three main pathways: quantitative loss; qualitative loss, and fragmentation, caused largely by encroachment for agriculture and overexploitation of forest products.

Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) has received through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) a grant from the Global Environment Facility

(GEF) to implement “Forest Landscape Restoration in the Mayaga Region project”. This 6- year project is implemented from 2020 in 4 Districts of the Amayaga Region namely Kamonyi, Ruhango, Nyanza and Gisagara aims to secure biodiversity and carbon benefits while simultaneously strengthening the resilience of livelihoods, through forest landscape restoration and upscaling clean technologies in four Districts of the Amayaga region. Following the project objective, the project has managed to develop a comprehensive management plan for Kibirizi-Muyira Natural Forest of 466.9 Ha. Within this framework, the project in partnership with APEFA, a qualified civil society organization in community capacity building formed Community Driven Development groups to improve the livelihoods of the project beneficiaries and engage them in securing biodiversity.

#### **Results within the report period (April-June 2025)**

- I. The Nomination File documents comprising the Nomination File itself, the Cabinet Paper, and the updated Management Plan for the proposed upgrade of Kibirizi-Muyira Natural Forest to a Protected Area (IUCN Category III – Natural Monument or Feature) were developed, validated, and presented to REMA Management, who formally endorsed them. The documents are now ready for submission through the Ministry of Environment for Cabinet endorsement;
- II. The 27 km live fence surrounding Kibirizi-Muyira Natural Forest was continuously maintained during the reporting period. This included beating up (replacement of dead seedlings) and active community involvement in forest management activities, particularly in protecting the site from encroachment.

**Completed activities that contributed to the above achievements** *(Explain which activities took place and how they contributed to the achievement of the output. Photos or reports can be added as annex):*

1. A meeting was organized to present the nomination dossier for the Kibirizi-Muyira Natural Forest to REMA Management for review and endorsement.
2. Maintenance activities were undertaken, including beating up (replanting of dead seedlings) and guarding 27 km/ha of live fences. These efforts were complemented by awareness campaigns aimed at strengthening community understanding and support for natural forest conservation and sustainable management.

**Change in plan** *(what results were not achieved as planned and why):*

N/A

## **OUTPUT 7: *Buffer zones and hill-tops afforested with a mix of indigenous trees and higher productivity plantations***

**Results achieved and evidence** *(Explain the achievements at the output level. Make sure to provide evidence, related data and how it was collected):*

Amayaga faced big challenges of climate change and soil erosion due to insufficient forest cover and most of available forest are unproductive and degraded which has taken three main pathways: quantitative loss; qualitative loss, and fragmentation, caused largely by encroachment for agriculture and overexploitation of forest products.

FLR Project is intended to increase forest cover in part known as AMAYAGA Region through plantation of afforestation trees on degraded lands and along roads as well as river buffer zone protection with Bamboo to cope with the soil erosion through land-sliding runoff as well as promotion of higher productivity plantations.

The project has managed to plant 929 Ha of afforestation woodlot, 789 Ha of afforestation roadsides and creation of live fence of Kibirizi-Muyira natural forest 012 Km as well as protection of river buffer zone of 93.5 Km.

### **Results within the report period (April-June 2025).**

- Maintenance of restored hilltops through through afforestation woodlot activities was carried out across the four districts namely Kamonyi, Ruhango, Nyanza, and Gisagara. These included beating up, hands-on training sessions, and capacity-building efforts to improve the management of privately operated forest units established under the project;
- To ensure the sustainability of roadside afforestation, protection efforts were strengthened through relining activities to improve tree survival rates. Additionally, awareness campaigns were conducted to highlight the importance of protecting roadside vegetation as a means to prevent landslides and soil erosion;
- The upkeep of established buffer zones along rivers and dams was sustained, including the maintenance of live fences surrounding the Kibirizi-Muyira Natural Forest. Community-Driven Development (CDD) groups were mobilized to support these efforts, playing a key role in preventing encroachment and promoting long-term conservation of both the buffer zones and the protected forest area.

**Completed activities that contributed to the above achievements** *(Explain which activities took place and how they contributed to the achievement of the output. Photos or reports can be added as annex):*

- Maintenance of **929 Ha** of afforestation woodlots, **789 Km** of afforestation woodlots and **93.5 Km** of river buffer zone as well as 12 Km of live fence for Kibirizi-Muyira Natural Forest through beating up and trenches cleaning out as well as hands-on trainings for proper forest management practices.

**Change in plan** *(what results were not achieved as planned and why):*

N/A

**OUTPUT 8: SLM/SFM practices implemented in > 25,000 ha of agriculture land, including agroforestry on 1,000 ha of consolidated land**

**Results achieved and evidence** *(Explain the achievements at the output level. Make sure to provide evidence, related data and how it was collected):*

The landscape of Amayaga region is stressed with human activities including over-cultivation, deforestation, settlement, infrastructure development among others. In addition, the high elevation of in some parts as well as soil types is dominated by histosol and inceptisol which are susceptible to erosion and expose the landscape to high risk of degradation.

In order to cope with high soil erosion, the project is increasing vegetation cover in the aforementioned Amayaga region through plantation of agroforestry trees and plantation of fruit trees.

**Results within the report period (April-June 2025)**

- Protected cropland areas in the districts of Kamonyi, Ruhango, Nyanza, and Gisagara were maintained through comprehensive agroforestry practices, which included cleaning of trenches, preparation for beating up, and hands-on training sessions to build the capacity of farmers in sustaining and managing these restored landscapes;
- Planted fruit trees were also maintained using appropriate agronomic techniques such as watering, weeding, and beating up, ensuring their healthy growth and survival;
- To date, a total of 3,218 project beneficiary households have been supported with livestock, including 335 pigs, 2,091 goats, and 163 cows through direct distribution, and an additional 223 pigs, 353 goats, and 108 cows through the pass-on mechanism. Furthermore, 8,084 households received livestock through co-financing, which included 3,143 cows, 10,504 hens, 673 pigs, and 620 goats. These interventions have significantly contributed to enhancing household livelihood resilience, while the use of organic manure from the livestock has improved soil fertility by 50%, thereby promoting sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural practices;
- Approval of the project's exit strategy and maintenance plan to ensure the sustainability of interventions beyond the implementation phase..



**Completed activities that contributed to the above achievements** *(Explain which activities took place and how they contributed to the achievement of the output. Photos or reports can be added as annex):*

- A total of 13,886 hectares of fully established agroforestry systems and 243,834 fruit trees including avocados, mandarins, mangoes, macadamias, and oranges were maintained through key activities such as beating up, trench cleaning, weeding, and watering to ensure optimal growth and productivity.
- The project actively promoted the adoption and replication of climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices among beneficiaries, with regular monitoring of implementation and impact to support sustainable land use and climate resilience.
- Monitoring of 2,589 beneficiary households that received livestock support was conducted to enhance livelihood resilience and oversee the pass-on mechanism. To date, 3,218 households have benefited from livestock support, comprising:
  - ✓ 163 cows (directly distributed) and 108 cows (through pass-on/“kwitura”);
  - ✓ 335 pigs (directly distributed) and 223 pigs (through pass-on);
  - ✓ 2,091 goats (directly distributed) and 353 goats (through pass-on).
- As the project nears completion, a comprehensive exit strategy has been introduced to ensure the sustainability and continued maintenance of all project interventions post-implementation.

**Change in plan** *(what results were not achieved as planned and why):*

N/A

**OUTPUT 9: Wood consumption reduced by 25% from improved household and institutional cooking energy technologies.**

**Results achieved and evidence** *(Explain the achievements at the output level. Make sure to provide evidence, related data and how it was collected):*

As Forest Landscape Restoration in Mayaga Region Project' objective consist of securing biodiversity and carbon benefits while simultaneously strengthening the resilience of livelihoods, through forest landscape restoration and upscaling clean technologies in four Districts of the Mayaga region, moreover it has been observed that there is shortage of firewood fuel.

It is against this above background that the project has initiated the clean cooking whereby 21,000 households were supported by improved cook stoves and donated 20 full kits of cooking gas to 20 Schools located in the project intervention areas to promote clean cooking while reduce firewood consumption.

### Results within the report period (January-April 2025)

- Building on the pilot initiative for clean cooking technologies, which introduced LPG systems for bulk cooking in schools, several government institutions including Rwanda Energy Group (REG), REMA, and MINEDUC have developed and expanded related clean cooking projects;
- Following the observed positive impact of improved cookstoves in reducing pressure on forests, REG has further supported the initiative by subsidizing LPG use at the household level, aiming to accelerate the shift away from firewood and promote sustainable energy adoption.

**Completed activities that contributed to the above achievements** *(Explain which activities took place and how they contributed to the achievement of the output. Photos or reports can be added as annex):*

- The media tour focused on showcasing the impact of clean cooking technologies, particularly the use of LPG for bulk cooking, highlighting benefits such as time efficiency and cost savings to inspire the replication of similar initiatives.

**Change in plan** *(what results were not achieved as planned and why):*

N/A

### III. OVERALL CHALLENGES, RECOMMENDATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNT

*Raise any challenges that require attention, and lessons learnt / best practices that can be shared within the project and with other projects.*

**Key challenges and risks, recommendations** *(Identify challenges and risks and recommended solutions):*

Key challenges	Way forward
Low ownership among some project beneficiaries	Following the conducted training, mobilization, and awareness-raising activities aimed at enhancing the capacity of project beneficiaries to sustain the interventions, a comprehensive exit strategy along with a detailed maintenance plan was developed and approved. This strategy clearly outlines the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders and beneficiaries to ensure long-term sustainability and continued engagement beyond the project's duration.

### Lessons learned and/or good practices

- **Community Capacity Building:** The project has significantly strengthened knowledge and skills in key environmental areas, including climate-smart agriculture and forest management practices. These competencies are now being extended to others through a "training of trainers" approach, resulting in an additional 403 beneficiaries being reached. In total, 6,583 project beneficiaries have been trained in various environmental domains;
- **Community Engagement in Project Implementation:** Active community involvement in maintenance activities has been essential in supporting sustainable land and forest management interventions. This engagement has led to reduced soil erosion, improved soil moisture and fertility conservation, and increased water retention. As a result, spring water levels have stabilized, flooding in marshland agricultural zones has decreased, and overall soil productivity has improved;
- **Pass-On Approach:** Following the distribution of livestock to 2,589 households, a pass-on system was implemented. Once the animals reproduced, an additional 684 households received livestock from their neighbors, reinforcing community solidarity and expanding the project's impact.

**Leave No One Behind, Gender, Knowledge & Innovation, Environment:** *(Share any achievements or lessons learnt, good practices on Leave None Behind, gender equality and women's empowerment, Innovation and Environment (Reports that will include a section on "Environment" are only those for projects focusing on socio-economic development))*

To ensure that the project delivers its outputs and achieves its objectives, a Financing agreement was signed between REMA and APEFA Sept, 29th 2021 to implement "community capacity building in the areas of livelihoods and agroforestry for forest landscape restoration in Mayaga region".

Within this regards an evaluation of the achievements on this financing agreement, it has been observed that all category of people was considered, indeed 59.26% project beneficiaries are female while 40.74% are male, moreover within those female and male 38.66% are youth.

The Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA)'s Single Project Implementation Unit (SPIU) has successfully implemented numerous projects, including LAFREC, LDCF II, and more similar to FLR Mayaga Project. The "leave no one behind" approach has been a best practice adopted in these projects. As a result of this SPIU's spirit, the early implementation of the project was achieved, leveraging the experience gained from previous similar projects that have already been successfully implemented.

#### IV. RESULTS FRAMEWORK SUMMARY

*Monitor the indicators by quarter and record relevant progress. Make sure to add the source of data.*

Project Outcome	Indicator (brief description)	Baseline value	End target	Progress towards target	Tool and means of verification	Narrative assessment
<b>Outcome 1:</b> Knowledge based forest restoration plans, covering over 263,270 ha, with institutional and legislation frameworks	Master plans for FLR, for Environmental and Social Management (ESIA) and Environmental and Social Management (ESMP)		1 Master plan for FLR for 263,270 ha	1	Existing plans. Plans reviewed and accepted by internal and external reviewers/experts	Completed
			1 Plan for ESIA for 263,270 ha	1		Completed
			1 Plan for ESMP for 263,270 ha	1		Completed
	Institutional frameworks		4 Committees for FLR coordination under the JADF	1	Checklists, reports and actions made by committees	Completed



	Legislation frameworks		1 Addendum clarifying SFM and FLR definition in the National Forest Policy (2018)	Ongoing	National Forest Policy document review by SFM and FLR experts	4 Committees for FLR coordination under the JADF are already formed including project stakeholders.
<b>Outcome 2:</b> Individual and institutional capacities enhancement for planning and implementing gender	2.-Aggregated score combining systemic, institutional and individual capacities	Aggregated score is 36.5%	Aggregated score at least 59.86%	1	Capacity Assessment in the Green Amayaga project area of intervention mid-term review report approval by relevant reviewers/experts	Completed
sensitive forest landscape restoration strategies supported by knowledge management	Institutional capacity and gaps assessment document	0	1	1	Document approval by relevant reviewers/experts	Completed
	M&E plan document, M&E mid-term and final reports	0	3	2	Plan and reports approved by third party	M&E Plan developed and validated

	Knowledge management plan document	0	1	1	Final document reviewed and approved	Completed
	Gender mainstreaming strategy plan document, field reports	0	1 document	1	Approved document	Completed
<b>Outcome 3:</b> Implementation of FLR plans improves management of forest biodiversity in 555 ha of natural forests (increasing protection status of 354 ha of the 555ha), puts 300 ha of forests under participatory forest management, establishes 1,000 ha of plantations under the New Forest Company through co-	555 ha of high conservation value forest and gazettelement of 354 ha of it as PA	0	555 ha as protected area	466.9 ha	GPS device, Collect earth. GPS coordinates, and maps of protected areas	To be initiated. The area was identified and validated
	Agriculture land under SLM/SFM practices of agroforestry.	0	25,000 ha of	25,000 ha	GPS device. GPS coordinates, and maps of protected areas	On track
	Consolidated land commercial fruit crops	0	1,000 ha	1192.2 ha	GPS device, Collect earth, tree cover	1,192.2 Ha of different consolidated land with commercial trees crops (243,834 fruits trees planted)

## PROGRESS AT OUTPUTS LEVEL

### 5.1. Knowledge based forest restoration plans, covering over 263,270 ha, with institutional and legislation frameworks

Project Output	Indicator (brief description)	Baseline value	End target	Progress towards target (%)	Tool and means of verification	Narrative assessment
Output 1.1 Legislation and coordination mechanism in place for effective FLR	1. Relevant office resources for FLR implementation	Not specified	Not specified	Done	Computer hardware and software (database and GIS), routers and other networking needs, printers and scanners	Office equipment were procured
Revised forest management plans	2. FLR thematic group under JADF	No FLR coordination mechanism	4 FLR coordination committees established under the	Done	Meeting reports (field visits reports done by committees)	Meetings are regularly conducted
			JADF fully functional			

	3. Both the SFM and FLR definitions are adopted by JADF for the purposes of the planning and implementation	SFM and FLR definitions clear at international level, not clear in the National Forest Policy	Addendum clarifying SFM and FLR definition part of the National Forest Policy (2018).	Ongoing	National Forest Policy document revised by SFM and FLR experts. SFM and FLR definitions clarified in the policy	
	4. The by-laws to change the requirement of obtaining permits to cut trees from two to one hectare are formulated	By law, only forest exceeding 2 ha need a permit to cut trees	Area of land requiring a permit to cut trees reduces to 1.5 ha	N/A	By-law notices or document, limits set on area that should be permitted for trees cut	
Output 1.2. Four FLR plans ready for implementation, covering 263,270 ha	1. Workshops and conferences organized, especially for community groups participation in planning processes	Not specified	Not specified	Ongoing	Reports on community mobilization and participation conferences at different levels	Completed
	2. Master plans for FLR, for Environmental and Social Management (ESIA) and Environmental and Social	No existing MP	1MP for 263,270 ha, 1ESIA Plan, 1ESMP Plan	Done	Master plan documents for FLR, plan for ESIA, ESMP, maps for FLR	



	Management (ESMP) are developed					
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## 5.2 Individual and institutional capacities enhancement for planning and implementing forest landscape restoration strategies supported by knowledge management

Project Output	Indicator (brief description)	Baseline value	End target	Progress towards target (%)	Tool and means of verification	Narrative assessment
Output 2.1 Training programs implemented for all stakeholders, increasing the average individual score on the UNDP Capacity Assessment by 25 percentage points for all stakeholder groups	1. Training of FLR stakeholders	0	N/A	100	Number of communities and stakeholders trained, number of trainings, and training contents covered	3,187 Females  3,396 Males
	1. Key stakeholders for planning and implementation identified	0	1 document	1 Document	Document of stakeholders' analysis	Completed

	2. Skills development	Aggregate d score is 36.5	Aggregate d score is	Ongoing	Reports, training/workshop	The Draft assessment
	programs for concerned ministries technical staff and for land users or community designed and implemented,	(systemic - 41.67; institutional - 31.25; individual - 36.46)	59.86, increase can be attributed to the areas specific to the project		programs, training manuals	report available
	3. Technical staff trained on data collection and analysis techniques	Idem	Idem	Ongoing	Reports, training/workshop programs, training manuals, nber of trainees	Completed
	4. Community groups and cook stove technicians trained on the energy resources management	Not specified	Not specified	21,000 people from households and 20 people from schools	Reports, training/workshop programs, training manuals, signed list of trainees with IDs	

Output 2.2 Institutional capacity for the extension service and community knowledge sharing forums increased by 25 percentage points on the UNDP  Capacity Assessment for all stakeholder groups	1. Institutions relevant to the planning and implementation of the FLR plans are identified from	0	1 document	1 document	Institutions assessment and identification document	The draft assessment report available
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	the four districts, regional to national levels					
	2. Three community platforms (umuganda, umugoroba w'ababyeyi, inama rusange y'abaturage y'umudugudu) provided with operational resources	Existing, but not used in FLR	3 community platforms operational	3 platform	Reports, training/workshop programs, training manuals, signed list of trainees with IDs	Continuous

	3. Institutional capacity assessment and gaps identifications are undertaken	0	1 documents	Completed	Institutional capacity and gaps assessment document in place	Completed
Output 2.3: M&E plans, knowledge management and gender mainstreaming strategy in place	1. M&E plan is designed and implemented		Non-specific for FLR M&E plan	completed	M&E plan document, M&E reports	Completed
	2. Knowledge management plan is designed and implemented.		2.-0	2	Knowledge management plan document	Environment competitions in School were conducted.
	3. Gender mainstreaming strategy is designed and implemented		3.-0	1	Gender mainstreaming strategy plan document, field reports	

	4. Mid-term review and terminal evaluation carried out		4.-0	0	Evaluation reports	Ongoing
	5. International conference is organized to share experience (lessons and interest) from project implementation		5.-0	N/A	Report document on decisions from the conference	Not yet initiated

### 5.3. Ecological, environment and biophysical indicators, their metrics and tools for FLR monitoring and evaluation

Project Output	Indicator (brief description)	Baseline value	End target	Progress towards	Tool and means of verification	Narrative assessment
Output 3.1: Management enhanced for 555 ha of high	1. One international and three local consultants hired to supervise the FLR activities	0	4 Consultants	Completed	Hiring documents (contracts, tender, etc.), consultants work reports or documents	The Local NGO was hired

conservation value forest and gazettelement of 354 ha of it as PA;	2. Area of restored forest	0	354 ha	Ongoing	GPS device, Tree cover mapping tool, Tablets, collect earth, GPS coordinates of restored areas, and maps	The demarcation of the forest was done and 12ha of fence completed.  The assistance of Natural regeneration is ongoing.
	3. Landscape tree coverage and diversity	NA	N/S	Ongoing	Tree cover mapping tool, Tablets, Collect earth, coordinates and a map of tree cover	4,408,634 trees planted in the landscape.
	4. Forest protection stakeholder working groups formed	0	10 Community groups	Ongoing	Reports, field visits for Community groups presence check	The community group are being formed in collaboration with hired Local NGO.
	5. PA (protected area) management units formed and operational	354 ha of the 555 ha forest is currently Forest Reserve; there are no Participatory Forest	At least 10 Participatory Forest (555 ha) management agreements	Not yet started	Reports, signed and operational agreements	



		Management agreement.				
	6. Necessary documents prepared to upgrade the Kibirizi-Muyira Natural Forest reserve to IUCN Category IV protection status	0	555 ha under protected area	The tender process for recruitment of consultant to prepare a nomination file was initiated.	Documents in place	The publication is planned in upcoming quarter.
	7. PA management plans, business and sustainable financing plans are designed and implemented	0	555 ha under protected area, 300 ha under management plan	Note yet started	PA, management plan, business plan and sustainable financial plan documents	
Output 3.2. Buffer zones and hilltops afforested with a mix of	1. Buffer zone establishment	N/A	N/S	868 Ha of buffer zone	GPS device, tablets, collect earth, GPS coordinates, maps	753 ha of road buffer zone, 93ha of river banks 12ha of Remnant forest

indigenous trees and higher productivity plantations	2. Area of forest plantation	NA	N/S	929Ha	GPS device, Tablets, Collect earth, GSP coordinates, and maps	929Ha of improved woodlot
	3. At least ten community participatory forestry management (PFM) groups formed	0	10 PFM groups	16 PFM Groups	Training/workshop reports, Field visits, active PFM groups	
	4. Individuals and groups that are interested in establishing or improving the productivity of existing plantations are linked to the New Forests Company (NFC),	NS (Need assessment)	HHs with at least 1,000 ha new forest, 27,000 ha of existing forests whose productivity increased	Ongoing	List of HHs, maps, GPS coordinates of forests, Field visits, agreement documents, maps	

	3. Tree nurseries with both quality stock of indigenous and plantation, fast growing species are established through community groups, cooperatives	Not specified	NS	4,408,634 trees	Number of tree nurseries and respective tree species, GPS coordinates showing location of nurseries in FLR sites	
Output 3.3: SLM/SFM practices implemented in > 25,000 ha of agriculture land,	1. Number of fruit trees distributed and planted	N/A	N/S	243,834 fruits	Planted fruit trees, field check, GPS coordinates	Distributed at Household level and consolidated land
	2. Area under agroforestry	NA	N/S	13,986Ha	GPS device, Tablets, Collect earth, GPS coordinates, and maps	1,398,600 trees planted
including agroforestry on 1,000 ha of consolidated land	3. Area under water retention ditches and progressive terraces	NA	N/S	13,986 Ha	GPS device, Tablets, Collect earth, GPS coordinates, maps	1,508,046 Trenches created
	4. Area under grasses fodder	NA	N/S	13,986 Ha	GPS device, Tablets, GPS coordinates, maps	16,982,500 fodder grasses planted

	5. Three technical entities hired for implementation of the plantation establishment, SLM/SFM practices and improved energy practices	Not specified	At least 25,000 ha of agriculture land, including agroforestry on 1,000 ha of consolidated land	Done	Hiring documents (contracts, tender, etc.), work reports or documents from technical entities such monthly, quarterly and annual field reports	Local Community, NGOs and Cooperatives
	6. Project manager and project assistant are hired and operational	Project manager and assistant non-existent	Project manager and assistant in place	Done	Hiring documents (contracts, tender, etc.), work reports or documents from technical entities such monthly, quarterly and annual field reports	
	7. Relevant material resources for FLR implementation and basic furnishing and office equipment for PCU and the JADF (if necessary) are procured )	NS	NS	Done	Computer hardware and software, tables, chairs, filing cabinets, office stationery and supplies	

	8. New FFS formation are facilitated after need assessments	NS (Need assessment)	At least 50,000 participating in FFS	Ongoing	Field visits and reports, need assessment document	40 FFS groups created
	9. Land consolidation for tree growing is facilitated for markets	NS	At least 5,000 engaged in consolidated tree crop farming as cash crops, at least 100 tree famers under contract and in land use consolidation	Ongoing	Signed contracts, area under land use consolidation Field visits and reports	
	10. Areas suitable for SLM via terracing are identified	NS (Need assessment)	At least 500 ha put under new or rehabilitated terraces	N/A	GPS device, maps, coordinates Field visits and reports	

	11. The percentage of households with livestock is increased in all districts	NS (Need assessment)	At least 10,000 HH benefiting from one cow per family	Under procurement process	List of Households, field visit and reports	
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Output 3.4: Wood consumption reduced by 25% from improved household and institutional cooking energy technologies	1. Number of people supported with improved cooking stoves	NS (Need assessment)	NS (Need assessment)	21,000	A list of households and field checks	1 improved cookstove per Household
	2. Forestry associations formed and supported at local level	NS (Need assessment)	NS (Need assessment)	4 FOA	Number of formed or supported forest associations to support participatory forest management	Four Forest association created
	3. Improved charcoaling value chain	Improved charcoaling value chain document	The improvement resulting in reduction of 25% in wood consumption	ongoing	Inventory on charcoal use reduction through HHs interviews	



	4. Dissemination of at least 10,000 cook stoves each year, resulting on a total of about 60,000 by the end of the project (with 1% being institutional cook stoves).		At least 60,000 improved cook stoves distributed to HH	21,000	Field visit, list of HHs benefited cookstoves	The Official Launch for use of LPG in Schools and public institution was conducted.
	adoption of carbonization, processing, and packaging technologies/ techniques, to improve the value, quality and marketing of the charcoal					

### Socio-economic gender-responsive indicators and tools for participatory monitoring and evaluation

Project Output	Indicator (brief description)	Baseline value	End target	Progress to achieve target	Tool and means of verification	Narrative assessment
Output 3.1: Job and income generation	1.1. Number of jobs and type of labor (permanent or temporary/local or family)	N/A	•At least 30% of female representation to be respected at each level	91,774	A checklist of local workers employed by FRL interventions	
	1.2. The amount of income generated from FLR activities	N/A	Proportion of income obtained by local community from FLR intervention	Ongoing	Detailed list of all project workers (permanent or temporary/local or family).  Income form filled by FLR beneficiaries	Checked and approved during MTR

	2. Amount (in money) from commercialization of products from agroforestry systems (AFS) and NTFPs	N/A	Number of Gender-based groups in NTFPs production and selling. % of men and women involved.	Not yet initiated	Tablets with data collection sheet encoded, Gender based groups involved	Checked and approved during MTR
	2.1. Personal harvests of AFS and NTFPs in areas under restoration (for household consumption)	N/A	Both men and women (ideally 50-50) to benefit equally by FLR process	Not yet initiated	Tablets with data collection sheet encoded. number of men and women benefited	Checked and approved MTR
	2.2. Income generated via commercialization of AFS and NTFPs	N/A	Both women and men to earn income	Not yet initiated	Income form filled by FLR beneficiaries	Assessed during MTR
3. Gender mainstreaming in FLR project	3.1. Proportion (%) of women and men involved in FLR	N/A	At least 30% of women participation	49%	Checklist	93,634 people benefited financially
						from FLR

						initiatives
	3.2. Gender-based local cooperatives participation in FLR project	N/A	Consideration of all gender based groups (women, men & youth) for FLR	Ongoing	Checklist, number of groups involved	
	3.3. Youth involvement and participation	N/A	Involve both female and men youth in FLR (at least 50% to be youth)	Ongoing	Checklist. Number of youth involved	
	4. Participation of communities and local stakeholders involved in project planning	N/A	At least 30% women should be involved. All men, women, and youth should be given equal chances	Ongoing	Checklist, Social network mapping	

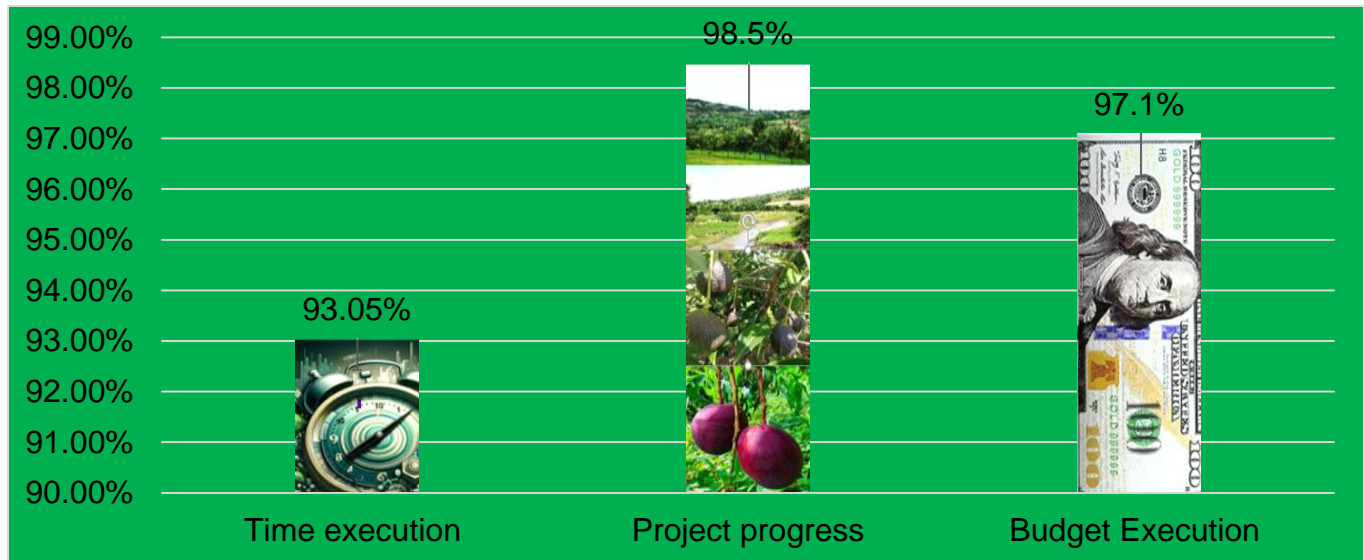
3. People livelihood	6.1. Number of people supported with improved cooking stoves	0	One improved cookstove per HH	21,000 Households	A list of households who benefited improved cookstoves from the project, improved cooking stoves	40% are female
	7.1. Number of fruit trees distributed and planted	N/A	Fruits distributed at HH level and consolidated approach	243,834	List of households assisted to plant fruit trees and number of seedlings distributed, Checklist + field check	
	7.2. Local community benefited livestock from FLR		Women and men equal right to receive livestock	17,479 House holds	Checklist, number of households assisted with provision of livestock, livestock types and number provided for each type.	
	7. Improvements in nutrition and livelihoods		50-50 All men and women should equally receive fruit trees	Not yet started	Checklist, field checks, GPS coordinates to locate sample trees	

## V. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Planned Disbursement in USD (Frw)	Actual Disbursement in USD (Frw)	Actual Spending USD (Frw) for Q2	Performance (%) for Q2	Comments
108,361 (152,247,205 Frw)	108,361 (152,247,205 Frw)	89,230 (125,368,489Frw)	82.3	The project budget was not fully utilized as planned, primarily due to pending activities regarding the installation of signage at key project intervention sites.



## VII. CUMULATIVE PROJECT PERFORMANCE



**Prepared by:**

**Signature**

**Date**

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11/07/2025

**Approved by:**

Remy SONGA  
FLR in the Mayaga Region Project Manager

14/04/2025

## VIII. LIST OF ANNEXES

### Pictures of results towards project achievement



**Status of planted fruits (Avocadoes, Mangoes and Oranges)**





**Status of complete agroforestry in Gisagara and Kamonyi Districts**



**Status of Afforestation woodlots in Kamonyi Districts**



**Status of Afforestation roadsides in Gisagara and Kamonyi Districts**





**Status of river buffer zone Nyanza and Kamonyi Districts**



**Training on Groups and cooperatives management**



**Status of livestock (cows) in Gisagara and Ruhango districts**



**Status of LPGs for bulk cooking for schools in Gisagara and Kamonyi districts**