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

QUARTER FOUR PROGRESS REPORT

FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-2024

January, 2024

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.

Project title:	**Forest Landscape Restoration in Mayaga Region Project (Green Amayaga Project)**	
Project number:	**GEF Project ID number: 5702**	
Project/UNDP/CPD outcome:	**By 2023 Rwandan Institutions and communities are more equitably productively and sustainably managing natural resources and addressing climate change and natural disasters**	
NST priorities:	**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.**	
SDGs:	**11: Sustainable cities and communities; 1. No poverty; 2. Zero hunger; 5. Gender Equality; ,13: Climate Action and 15 Life on land**	
Project start date:	**November 2019**	
Project end date:	**November 2025**	
Reporting period (Q/YYYY):	**Q4/2023 "October-December 2023"**	
Project budget (USD):	**TRAC (core):**	**USD 1,000,000**
	Government of Rwanda (in kind):	**USD 25,513,366**
	Other donors: GEF	**USD 6,213,538**
	Total project budget:	**USD 32,726,904**

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 2023 *(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 APEFA representing civil society organizations, 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 (October-December 2023)

In the fourth quarter of 2023, significant efforts were directed toward preparing for the upcoming Steering Committee meeting scheduled for January 12th, 2024. The primary focus of this meeting will be to present the progress made in the project during the semester, the Annual Work Plan and Budget (Action plan and budget) for 2024, and the status of implementing the recommendations from the previous steering committee meeting and the mid-term evaluation.

Furthermore, on December 12th, 2023, a meeting of the National Advisor Committee took place. During this meeting, various technical recommendations were discussed to ensure the project meets its deliverables and achieves its objectives within the established timeline. Special attention was given to the matter of beating up and maintenance works of landscape activities including afforestation and agroforestry to ensure the season A 2024 has efficiently used, mobilization and awareness campaign to raise the ownership of project beneficiaries towards project interventions sustainability.

Additionally; in this reporting quarter of 2023, 4 Stakeholder working groups meetings were conducted in each of the 4 districts as it was earlier planned. The eventual change emanating from the meeting was that all stakeholders at different levels were informed of their roles and responsibilities in the overall project coordination especially in maintenance of project interventions/Activities (landscape restoration activities: afforestation, complete agroforestry and fruit trees plantation) to ensure their sustainability. Moreover, high level meeting was conducted involving all stakeholders at various the meeting recommended supporting the environmental coordination committees at District and Sector levels which awakened their participation in project implementation as well as monitor the environmental issues in general as per the expected duties.

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.   4 stakeholders working group meetings were conducted at district level in Kamonyi; Ruhango, Nyanza and Gisagara;

ii. National technical advisor committee meetings were conducted at national level;

iii. High level meeting was organized with all stakeholders at province level;

iv. Field visit were organized and conducted whereby various project interventions were visited among other afforestation woodlot (creation of water retention ditches and plantation of forest trees), river buffer zone protection (Bamboo and trees plantation), complete agroforestry (creation of progressive terraces and plantation of agroforestry trees) and fruit trees plantation (Avocadoes, Oranges, Mandarina, Mangoes and Macadamia plantation).

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 (October-December 2023)

During consultation workshop on the development of new projects related FLR approaches such as GEF-8 and LDCF IV, the published FLR Plans plays a significate role.

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)***:**
Publication of 4 FLR Plans for Gisagara, Kamonyi, Nyanza and Ruhango Districts.
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., A total of **2,125** project beneficiaries underwent training, with **894** of them being female participants for this quarter 3.

A capacity assessment in the Green Amayaga project area of intervention as per mid-term review report has confirmed that the average individual score on the UNDP capacity Assessment has increased at **23.62** % points for all stakeholder groups.

Results within the report period (October-December 2023)

As the conducted training were in framework of training of trainers as also the during this quarter the result were achieved:

I.   All environmental committees at District and sector levels were monitored and facilitated to comply with their roles and responsibilities in Kamonyi; Ruhango; Nyanza and Gisagara Districts. They participated in the field visit to assess the status of project activities and provided comprehensive recommendations for project remedial actions;

II.   During monitoring of Forest management practices, we observed that forest management practices are ongoing among others pruning and cleaning out of water retention ditches by the Forest Management Units members;

III.   After deep assessment, 22 CDD groups are operational and they are at the stage to receive financial supports now these supports have been transferred to the District beneficiaries, framework to adopt while providing the supports has been developed, those groups will be supported this coming 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)***:**

●   Stakeholders in charge of community capacity building including RGB, APEFA, REMA, RFA and the 4 Districts made a follow up on Farmer Field School groups for Climate Smart Agriculture, Private Forest Management Units and assessed their capacities and approaches to be used during the knowledge transfer;

●   Stakeholders in charge of community capacity building including RGB, APEFA, REMA, RFA and the 4 Districts made an assessment on the readiness of community driven development groups to receive support on their sub-project.

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 topics on environment management and climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as land and trees husbandry 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**.** Total of **1,006** project beneficiaries underwent training, with **538** of them being female participants.
 	
A capacity assessment in the Green Amayaga project area of intervention as per mid-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 (October-December 2023)
   I.   During this quarter, the established gardens have served for education, **357** environmental club members have been trained on tree species (Indigenous, exotic, medicinal and fruits) as well as tree management as one of pillars of environment management. Moreover, those gardens serve also for greening purpose;
   II.   Transfer of Skills and knowledges from various training (Climate smart agriculture, Forest management practices, land and tree husbandry) provided by the project were adopted through training of trainers' approach. 186 project beneficiaries were trained on climate smart agriculture and they have adopted the practices in their land during this season A 2024.

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)***:**   ● Training sessions for environmental club members of 8 schools on tree management were organized;

- Skills and knowledge transfer session were conducted using training of trainers' approach.

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.

It is against this background, Forest Landscape Restoration in the Mayaga region Project has developed two studies that significantly contribute to its smooth implementation. The following are the aforementioned studies:

1. Development of Knowledge Management Plan for FLR practices in Rwanda;
2. Participatory and Gender Inclusive Monitoring and Evaluation plan for Forest Landscape Restoration in the Mayaga region.

Apart from using these two studies in project implementation, there are no other results from this output within this 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 (October-December 2023)

I. Development of terms of reference for Hiring a Consultancy firm for the Preparation of Nomination File to Upgrade Kibirizi-Muyira Natural Forest to a Protected Area (IUCN Category III - Natural Monument or Feature)**;**
II. The established live fence was maintained through beating up and involvement of community in other management activities of the Kibirizi-Muyira Natural Forest such as protecting the forest against 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. Deep assessment for Kibirizi-Muyira Natural Forest and develop terms of reference for Hiring a Consultancy firm for the Preparation of Nomination File to Upgrade Kibirizi-Muyira Natural Forest to a Protected Area (IUCN Category III - Natural Monument or Feature)**;**
2. Nursery establishment and beating up activities were conducted with organization of awareness to raise the community' knowledge on natural forest 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 o12 Km as well as protection of river buffer zone of 93.5 Km.

Results within the report period (October-December 2023)

- Maintaining the restored hilltops in four districts, namely Kamonyi, Ruhango, Nyanza, and Gisagara, through practices like afforestation woodlot with maintenance activities such as beating up and conducting hands-on training sessions to properly maintain the restored areas and enhance the capabilities of privately managed forest units that were established;
- Sustaining the afforestation of roadsides in four Districts, efforts included reinforcing the protection of roadsides by relining to enhance survival rates. Furthermore, awareness campaigns were conducted to emphasize the significance of safeguarding roadsides against landslides;
- Sustaining the upkeep of established buffer zones along rivers and dams, along with the establishment of live fences for the Kibirizi-Muyira Natural Forest. This initiative also involved the formation of community-driven development groups to aid in preventing encroachments on river buffer zones and the Kibirizi-Muyira Natural Forest.

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 (October-December 2023)

- Maintaining the protected cropland with complete agroforestry practices in four districts, namely Kamonyi, Ruhango, Nyanza, and Gisagara, through practices like cleaning out of trenches and beating up along with conducting hands-on training sessions to properly maintain the protected areas;
- Maintaining planted fruit trees with appropriate methods such as watering, weeding and beating up;
- The support to **2,539** households of project beneficiaries with livestock include **335** pigs, **2,091** goats and **113** cows. An additional **14,940** households among the project beneficiaries received support in the form of livestock include **3,143** cows, **10,504** hens, **673** pigs, and **620** goats through co-financing. That have proven instrumental in enhancing the resilience of livelihoods. Additionally, the availability of organic manure from these livestock has contributed to increased soil productivity at 50%, promoting sustainable agriculture practices. Moreover, the initiative has a business-oriented focus, empowering the beneficiaries to explore income-generating opportunities.

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 **13,886** Ha of complete agroforestry and **243,834** fruit (Avocadoes, Mandarin, Mangoes, Macadamia and Oranges) through beating up and trenches cleaning out as well as trees management practices such as weeding and watering;   ● Facilitate the replication of climate smart agriculture practices Monitor the status to project beneficiaries;   ● Monitor **2,539** households of project beneficiaries supported by livestock to enhance the resilience of livelihoods and initiate the pass on events.

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 (October-December 2023)

● The project's results were evident through testimonies from schools and households that received support of clean cooking energy whereby they indicated a 30% reduction in the cost of energy and a 56% reduction in cooking time;

- Reduction of struggle to find firewood for cooking as attested by project beneficiaries supported by improved cook stoves, the pressure on the forest were reduced due to adoption of improved cook stoves.

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 uses of 21,000 improved cookstoves** and **20** cooking gas (LPGs) were monitored to confirm their efficiency.

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

N/A

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
❖ Changing in weather patterns that hinder the relining activities to increase survival.	▪ Early preparation of holes helped in increasing the soil water holding capacity to the benefit of planted trees and increased the survival rate; ▪ Always seek guidance from METEO Rwanda for effective rainy season management.
❖ Wilting of planted Eucalyptus Microcorys that always occur in dry season.	▪ The Forest Research Division of the Rwanda Forestry Authority (RFA) has produced a technical report with relevant recommendations to deal with this issue.

Lessons learned and/or good practices

- Training provided to farmers and project stakeholders improved their practice and level of understanding of beneficiaries in terms of Ecosystem/ landscape approach restoration;

- Mainstreaming gender in project implementation helps improving their involvement restoration activities;

- Organize training of trainers' sessions to disseminate knowledge and skills gain from various training provided by FLR Mayaga project.

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.

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
Outcome 1: Knowledge based forest restoration plans, covering over 263,270 ha, with institutional and legislation frameworks	Master plans for FLR, for Environmental and		1 Master plan for FLR for 263,270 ha	1	Existing plans. Plans reviewed and accepted by internal and external reviewers/experts	Completed
	Social Management (ESIA) and		1 Plan for ESIA for 263,270 ha	1		Completed
	Environmental and Social Management (ESMP)		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	Under development
Outcome 2: 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	1	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	0	Approved document	To be initiated
Outcome 3: 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 gazettement 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	15,731Ha	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	1192.2 ha consolidated land with commercial tree crops (243,834 fruits trees were 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	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
FLR 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	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

implementation, covering 263,270 ha	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	Completed
	Management (ESMP) are developed					
Narrative assessment						

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	3,130	Number of communities and stakeholders trained, number of trainings, and training contents covered	1512 Females 1618 Males
	1. Key stakeholders for planning and implementation identified	0	1 document	1 Document	Document of stakeholders' analysis	Completed
	2. Skills development	Aggregated score is 36.5	Aggregated 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	
	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	Completed
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

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		4.-0	0	Evaluation reports	Ongoing

	evaluation carried out					
	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
Narrative assessment (200 maximum words)						

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 conservation value forest and gazettement of 354 ha of it as PA;	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
	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 Management agreement.	At least 10 Participatory Forest (555 ha) management agreements	Not yet started	Reports, signed and operational agreements	
		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 indigenous trees and higher productivity plantations	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
	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	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	

	(NFC),					
	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	

Output 3.4: Wood consumption reduced by 25% from improved household and institutional cooking	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

energy technologies	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 though 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					

Narrative assessment (200 maximum words)	

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	76,335	A checklist of local workers employed by FRL interventions	

		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
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		N/A	Both women and men to earn income	Not yet initiated	Income form filled by FLR beneficiaries	Assessed during MTR

	commercialization of AFS and NTFPs					
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	
Narrative assessment					

V. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Total project Budget Amount (USD)	Total disbursement (USD)	Total planned budget for the year 2023 (USD)	Total expenditures up to quarter 3, 2023 as of 31st December 2023 (USD)	% of annual Expenditure 2023	Observation
7,213,538	6,743,538	1,225,770	1,225,770	100%	The budget has been executed as planned

VII. CUMULATIVE PROJECT PERFORMANCE
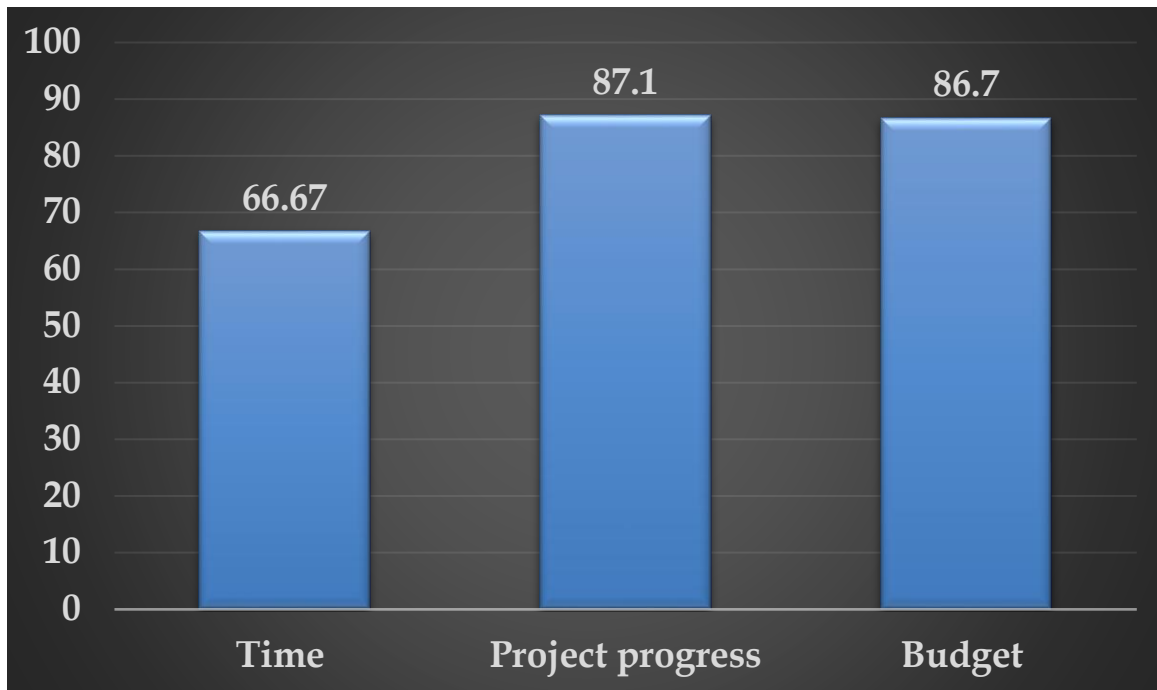
Prepared by: **Signature**   **Date**

                                                                            11/01/2024

Jean Bosco MUGWANEZA
M&E Specialist

Approved by:

                                                                            11/012024

Remy SONGA
FLR in the Mayaga Region Project Manager

VIII. LIST OF ANNEXES

Pictures of results towards project achievement

Status of planted fruits

Status of complete agroforestry (Progressive terraces and agroforestry and reeds) Nyanza and Ruhango District

Status of afforestation woodlot (Water retention and forest trees) Kamonyi and Gisiagara Districts

Status of afforestation roadsides of Rugobagoba-Mukunguri road in Kamonyi District

Status of Ururumanza and Akabebye river buffer zone protection in Ruhango District

Status of Kibirizi-Muyira Natural Forest after management of FLR Mayaga project in Nyanza District