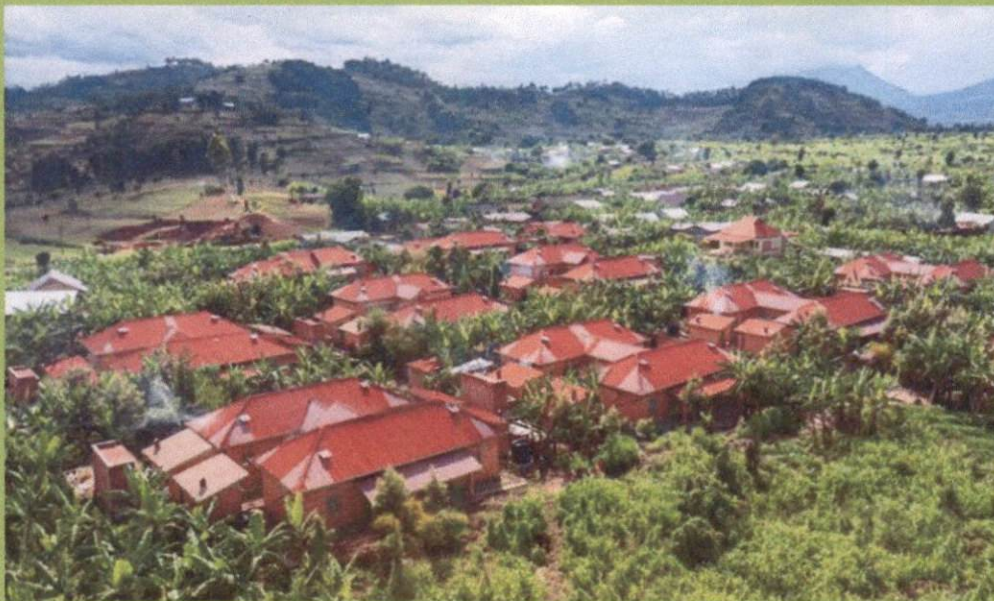


FINAL HANDOVER REPORT



BETWEEN



RWANDA ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

AND



MUSANZE DISTRICT

IMPLEMENTATION OF LDCF II PROJECT IN MUSANZE DISTRICT

June, 2023

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I. INTRODUCTION OF LDCF II PROJECT

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

The project had the following three components:

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

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

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

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

II. Rationale of the project

Ruhondo islands located in Musanze District and its inhabitants were vulnerable to climate hazards including frequent storms and heavy winds, poor water transport (no boats with engine). With climate change, hazards become uncontrollable and



habitants of the islands are enclaved that led to the limited access of health services, education,

The islands of Ruhondo Lake are among the most densely populated areas in Rwanda with an average farming area of 0.3 ha per household. It was at risk of exceeding the carrying capacity of the islands

To reduce the exposure of communities to climate changed impacts and the degradation of the island and lake Ruhondo , it was important to resettle communities at high risk to save life and promoting natural regeneration of the Islands ecosystem

III. General objective

The general objective of the project implemented in Musanze District was to protect Ruhondo Lake and islands using EbA approach to increase resilience of local communities living adjacent to the lake to the observed and anticipated effects of climate change.

IV. Specific objectives

The specific objectives assigned to the projects are the following:

- Construction of Gakoro Green Village in Gacaca Sector for hosting 46 families lived in high risk zone of Ruhondo lake islands.
- Agriculture Community Development Driven Project (CDD) on 25ha of Kiguhu wetland for livelihood improvement of the community resettled from Ruhondo islands to Gakoro green village in Gacaca Sector.
- Establishment of waste collection facility, and training in making and use of organic compost at Gakoro green village.

V. Description of implemented activities

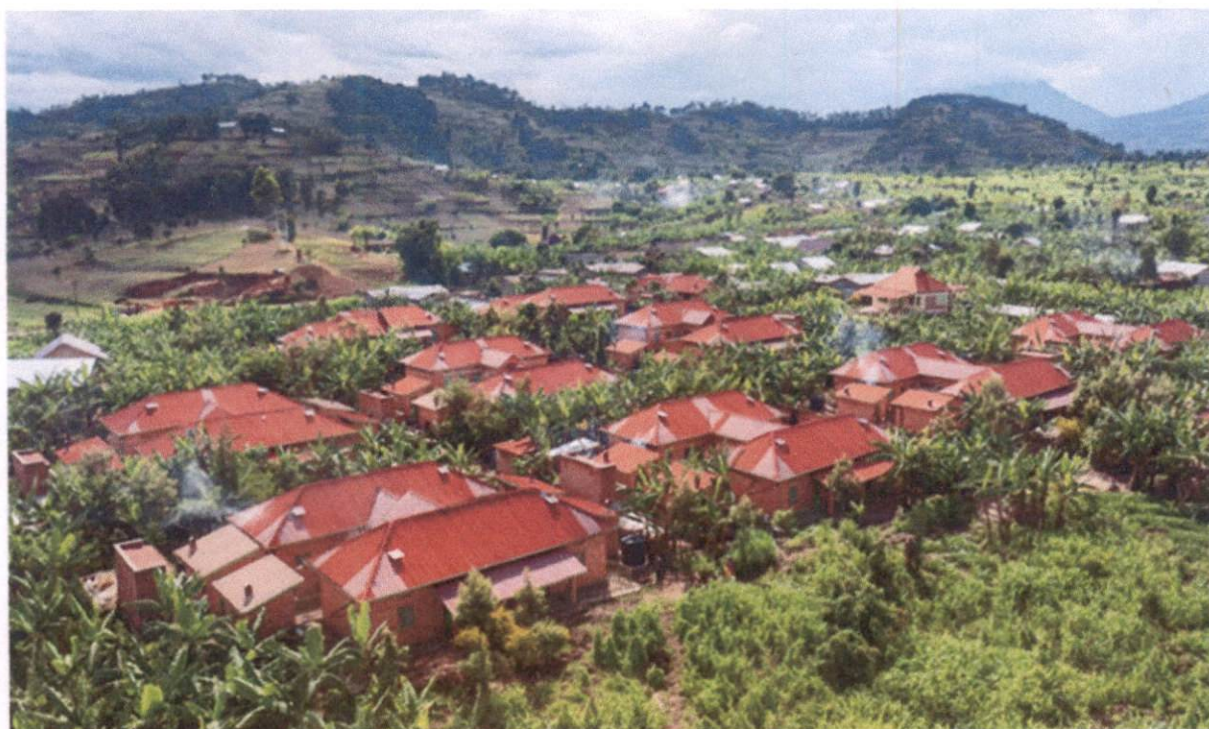
V.1 Construction of Gakoro Green village

In the context of relocating people living in high risk for disaster preparedness following activities have been carried out:



- The construction of 46 houses of which 11(4 in 1) and 1(2 in 1) for 46 households to be relocated from Ruhondo islands.
- Providing 46 cows and constructing cow sheds to the relocated households to improve their livelihoods.
- Construction of biogas and installation of rain water tanks .
- Construction of cooking stoves to protect the environment and reduce firewood consumption.

Photos of Gakoro Green village



The table below describes the cost related to the construction

Project	CONTRIBUTION	Total budget (FRW)	Budget disbursement (FRW)	Remaining budget (FRW)	Budget execution in %
Construction works of houses for resettlement of 46	REMA	470,080,000	470,080,000	0	100%

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household, biogas with elevated bio latrines, rainwater harvesting tanks, cowsheds and supply of cows in Gakoro green village	DISTRICT	306,886,084	306,886,084	0	100%
Total		776,966,084	776,966,084	0	100%

V.2 Agriculture Community Development Driven Project (CDD) on 25ha of Kiguhu wetland for livelihood improvement of the community resettled from Ruhondo islands to Gakoro green village in Gacaca Sector

To address the issue of people relocated from Ruhondo islands without land and to solve the problem of food insecurity, an agriculture Community Development Driven Project (CDD) on 25ha of Kiguhu wetland for livelihood improvement of the community resettled from Ruhondo islands to Gakoro green village in Gacaca Sector was developed. The table below describes various activities:

Project	Activity	UoM	Overall Targets
Implementation of a Community Development Driven Project (CDD) on 25ha of Kiguhu wetland for livelihood improvement of local communities resettled from Ruhondo islands to Gakoro green village in Gacaca Sector	Topographic survey	number of ha done	25
	preparation of of 25 ha of land located in Kiguhu wetland	number of ha done	25
	Plantation of banana suckers on 6 ha	number of ha planted with banana	6
	Tree and reed plantation	number of planted trees	2600
	Installation of bridge on created drainage channel	number of bridges installed	50





Photo for prepared wetland for agriculture purpose



The table below describes various expenses related to the drainage of 25 ha of Kiguhu

Project	CONTRIBUTION	Total budget (FRW)	Budget disbursement (FRW)	Budget execution in %
Drainage of 25ha of Kiguhu wetland for agricultural purpose	REMA	57,513,745	57,513,745	100%

V.3 Establishment of waste collection facility, and training in making and use of organic compost at Gakoro green village.

To ensure the sustainability of activities supported by LDCF II project and promotion of use of organic compost to reduce the use of industrial fertilizer in Gakoro wetland; a waste collection facility was established and trainings of local communities on waste management, making and use of organic compost was conducted. Following actions were performed under this outcome.

- One waste collection facility was established, valorized and managed in the sustainable manner;
- Damaged biogas was maintained and re-operationalized by beneficiaries to ensure their sustainability;
- Organic manure from biogas and other degradable waste were treated and used as organic fertilizer in wetlands;
- Local people around Kiguhu wetland trained on the sustainable wetland management and sustainability of project activities in general.

The total budget used on this outcome is of Fifteen Million Six Hundred Fifty-Six Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Rwandan Francs (15,656,450 frw)

VI. Implementation Status of Activities

This table details the implementation of the project activities in Musanze District.

Project	Activity	UoM	Targets	Achievement	Achievement in %
Construction of Gakoro green village provided for resettling 46 households living in	Construction of 11 houses (4 in 1), one house (2 in 1	Nbr of house	12	12	100
	Biogas system elevated to the bio latrines	Nbr of biogas	46	46	100
	installation of plastic water tanks	Nbr	46	46	100







islands of Ruhondo lake	construction of cowsheds and supply of 46 cows	Nbr	46 cowsheds and 46 cows	46 cowsheds and 46 cows	100
	Installation of cooks stoves	Nbr	62	62	100
Community Development Driven Project (CDD) on 25ha of Kiguhu wetland for livelihood improvement of the community resettled from Ruhondo islands to Gakoro green village in Gacaca Sector	Drainage of 25ha of land located in Kiguhu wetland	nbr of ha done	25	25	100
	Plantation of banana suckers on 6ha	nbr of ha planted	6	6	100
	Tree and reed plantation	nbr of ha planted	25	25	100
	Installation of bridge on created drainage channel	nbr of bridges installed	50	120	240

VII. Roles and Tasks

Roles and Tasks of MUSANZE District

In the implementation of this project, Musanze District played following roles:

- Quarterly and annual reporting of project progress;
- Quarterly and annual financial reporting;
- Hiring contractors;
- Monitoring, evaluation and Payment of contractors as per contract;
- Ensuring maintenance after final handover of the project;
- Supervision of the implementation of all activities
- Organisation of awareness meetings;
- Ensuring maintenance of the project activities after project completion.



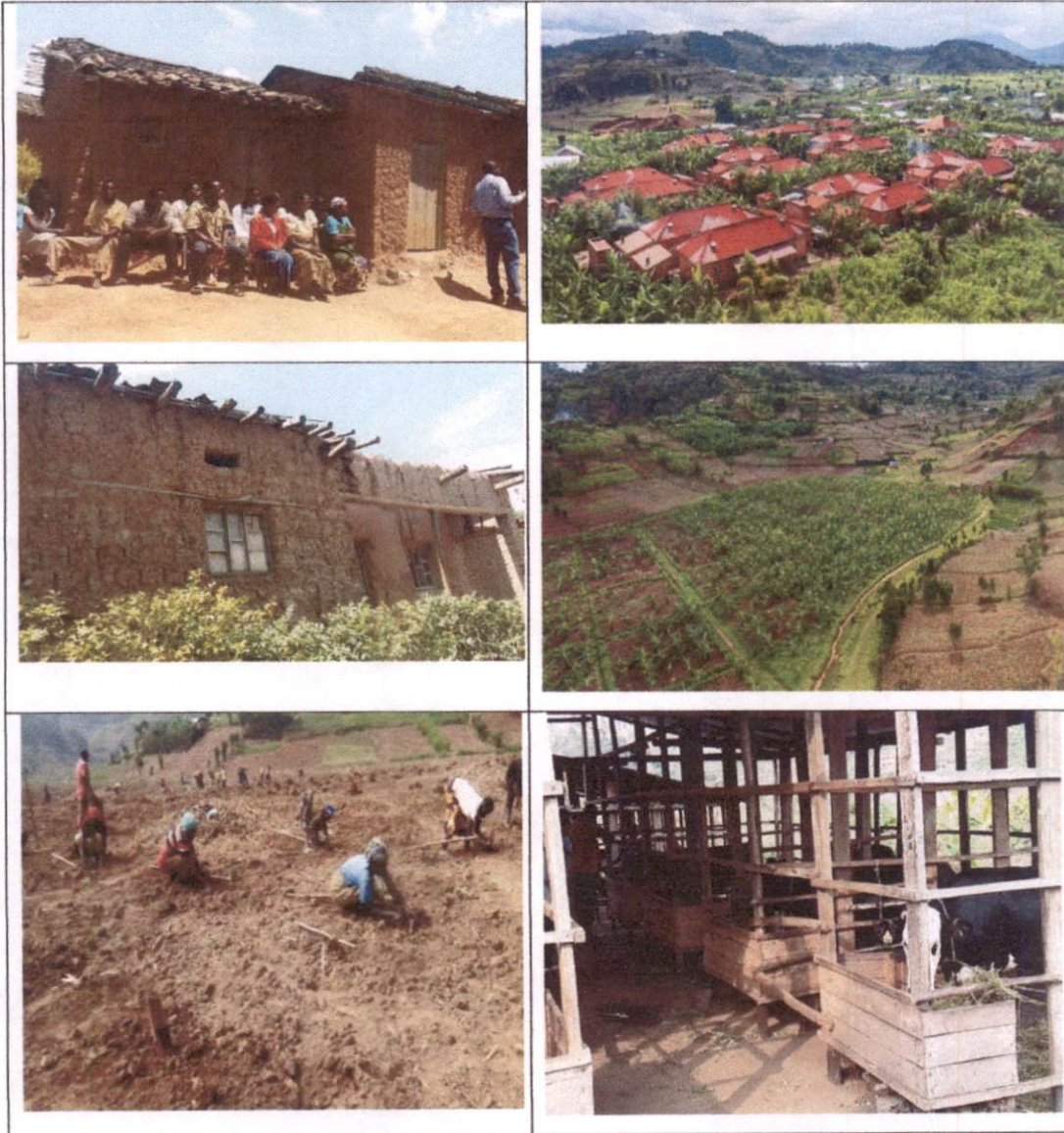


Roles and Tasks of REMA

REMA fulfilled the following responsibilities:

- Providing funds to the District from LDCF II project for the implementation of all activities related to the project.
- Conducting regular monitoring and evaluation of the project.

VIII. ILLUSTRATION OF PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS IN PICTURES



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IX. LDCF II PROJECT SUCCESS AND LESSON LEARNED

- a) **Capacity building:** The project beneficiaries have acquired appropriate knowledge and skills in the project related activities and thus can serve elsewhere in their communities for construction of Biogas, construction waste collection facility, making organic fertilizer, sustainable management of wetlands, maintenance of provided infrastructures. Local government officials in the District were empowered in EbA, monitoring and evaluation, and implementation and management of EbA related projects.

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- b) **Social cohesion built:** The project has increased the social integration, cohesion, trust and solidarity among the community beneficiaries.
- c) **Job creation:** The project was implemented using community approach, thus provided jobs to the local communities, hence enabled them to earn income as well as creating in them the culture of saving and built their capacities on working with financial institutions.
- d) **Women Economic Empowerment:** The project was gender sensitive hence contributed to women economic empowerment.
- e) **Participatory approach:** The project was implementation through consultative and participatory approach, this generated behavioral change and boosted ownership of project outputs among the beneficiaries. Moreover, community based cooperatives were formed and supported.
- f) **Disaster preparedness and islands ecosystem protection:** The project enhanced Disaster preparedness of local communities on the one hand through resettlement of communities at high risk, on the other hand bolstered protection of Ruhondo lake and its island.
- g) **Building the adaptive capacity to climate change:** Through providing Biogas systems and water tanks to households, the project reduces the hardship of women and saves them time as before they spend hours collecting fuel wood and water, cooking and cleaning. Biogas provides cleaner cooking fuels, enhancing indoor air quality and health, and also reduces landfill waste. The biogas system has increased the energy security in vulnerable households. Additionally, the project provides rainwater tanks to households, which not only help vulnerable women to save time but also increase access to water security during extreme events (droughts/ floods). Overall the project has contributed to build the adaptive capacity of the vulnerable households and also release pressure on vulnerable natural resources as a source of fuelwood

XI. PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

To ensure sustainability of the project outputs, the following measures were undertaken:



- a) Local communities were trained in management and maintenance of the project activities, as well as environmental protection and conservation, thus they have required skills to sustain project activities.
- b) Awareness campaigns on environmental laws, regulations and importance of conserving ecosystems as means of adapting to climate change were conducted. Beneficiary local communities are aware of laws and regulations on environmental protection and conservation, as well as importance of healthy ecosystems for their livelihoods.
- c) The project contributed to poverty reduction through support of livelihoods projects that are linked to the restored ecosystems, and hence increased local communities' guardianship of the restored ecosystems.
- d) Cooperatives were formed for supported livelihoods projects to ensure concerted efforts in sustaining the livelihoods projects and restored ecosystems.

X. Conclusion and recommendations

Musanze District is thankful for the existing collaboration between the Government of Rwanda through Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) under the GEF Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) for the continuous support to Musanze District. Through this cooperation, all activities under this project costed Five hundred forty-three million, Two hundred fifty thousand, one hundred ninety-five Rwandan Francs (543,250195 FRW) with Five Hundred Twenty-Two (522) project direct beneficiaries. We are committed for sustainable management of the project achievements and look forward to continuous support to the environmental protection in general and mitigation and adaptation to climate change in particular.

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



Responsibility of Musanze District

1. District will continue the mobilization of the beneficiaries on the maintenance of constructed green village.
2. The mobilization of beneficiaries will be a continuous activity to make sure that constructed infrastructure are well maintained by direct beneficiaries.
3. The District will avail the budget for supporting the maintenance of Gakoro green village.
4. District will continue to insure the sustainable use of Kiguhu wetland.


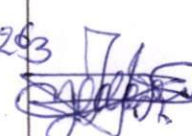
Responsibility of direct beneficiaries

The development cannot take place without the involvement of the beneficiaries. Their ownership is crucial to exploit existing opportunities. They have to comply with contracts binding them with the District related to the management of houses and the plots of land provided to them in Kiguhu wetland.


Approved by:

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On behalf of Musanze District


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On behalf of REMA

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