

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	5194
Project Name:	Building Resilience of Communities Living in Degraded Forests, Savannahs and Wetlands of Rwanda Through an Ecosystem Management Approach
Countr(ies):	Rwanda
Implementing Agency:	UNEP

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Building Resilience of Communities Living in Degraded Forests, Savannahs and Wetlands of Rwanda Through an Ecosystem Management Approach

Country

Rwanda

GEF ID

5194

Implementing Agency

UNEP

Executing Entity

Rwandan Environmental Management Authority (REMA) in partnership with Ministry of Natural Resources (MINIRENA) and Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI)

Trust Fund

LDCF

Project Type

FSP

PIR Submission

9/15/2025

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2025 , 8th PIR

Objective

Increased capacity of Rwandan authorities and local communities to adapt to climate change by implementing Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) interventions in forests, savannas and wetlands

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Satisfactory

Development Objective

Highly Unsatisfactory

Overall risk

Low Risk

Project Financing

6,022,500.00

Cumulative Disbursement

5,332,596.00

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

11/10/2015

Agency Approval

5/29/2015

Implementation Start 6/3/2016	First Disbursement 9/15/2016
Expected MTR 8/24/2019	Actual MTR 10/30/2019
Expected Completion 9/30/2025	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities

In this reporting period, the financial closure of the project was advanced, with the final project audit and disbursement completed in Q2 2025. However, administrative delays with this process resulted in the delayed start of the final pending activity (development of EbA business models for private sector), which was only initiated in Q2 2025. The inception phase has been completed, and the study is expected to be finalized in Q3 2025. Similarly, the finalization of the national EbA upscaling strategy could not be advanced until the final disbursement was processed. It is currently underway and is also expected to be finalized in Q3 2025.

The overall rating for the project's outcomes remains highly satisfactory. All indicator targets were achieved in previous reporting periods, and more than half of the targets were exceeded. For Outcome 1, most indicator targets were exceeded in previous reporting periods. For Outcome 2, both indicator targets were met in previous reporting periods, although the updating of the national upscaling strategy is still to be finalized with information from the ongoing study on EbA business models for private sector, and the integration of all project lessons learned as well as maps of the key priority ecosystems for upscaling. For Outcome 3, all indicator targets on EbA interventions and community-driven livelihoods development projects were exceeded in previous reporting periods.

In terms of the sustainability of the project's EbA interventions, handover reports for each District had been signed in June 2023. These include roles and commitments of each partner to ensure the long-term sustainability of the benefits and results of the project's EbA and livelihood diversification interventions. In this reporting period, the project Districts have continued to monitor the implemented activities, as included in their work plans and performance contracts.

The project progress towards its outputs in the current reporting period is rated satisfactory. Significant administrative delays were encountered with the financial closure process and final disbursement from UNEP to REMA, which resulted in further delays in the completion of the last remaining project activities (development of EbA business models for private sector, and finalization of EbA upscaling strategy). However, with the completion of the final disbursement in Q2 2025, these activities have been successfully re-launched and they are now on track to be finalized in Q3 2025.

Under Component 1, in this reporting period, a web story of the project's beekeeping activities in Kirehe and Ngororero Districts was produced by UNEP.

For Component 2, all the major activities were completed in previous reporting periods. The updating of the initial version of the national Upscaling Strategy on EbA was delayed in this reporting period, due to the delay in the last disbursement from UNEP to cover the workshop costs. This disbursement was effected in Q2 2025.

(after the completion of final project audit), and the updating of the Upscaling Strategy will be completed in Q3 2025. This will also include the integration of all lessons learned from the project as well as maps of identified key priority ecosystems for upscaling.

As for Component 3, the procurement process for the one pending activity, the development of EbA business models for private sector, was completed by UNEP in previous reporting period. However, the launch of the study was delayed in the current reporting period, due to the administrative delays related to the financial closure process and last disbursement. The activity is now underway, with the inception phase completed, and it is expected to be finalized in Q3 2025.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

The main challenge faced in this reporting period was the delayed start of the final pending project activity (the development of EbA business models for private sector). This was due to administrative delays in the financial closure of the project, which in turn delayed the final disbursement to REMA (which was required for organization of workshops related to the activity). The final disbursement was processed in Q2 2025, and the study is now underway. The inception phase has been completed, and the study is expected to be finalized in Q3 2025. Similarly, the finalization of the national EbA upscaling strategy could not be advanced until the final disbursement was processed. It is currently underway and is also expected to be finalized in Q3 2025.

Overall risk rating: The overall risk rating for the project remains low. The remaining two project activities are close to completion, almost all outputs have been successfully achieved, and all outcome indicator targets have been reached and or exceeded.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

As previously reported, the project demonstrated a strong and participative process of collaboration between REMA and the District-level institutions. As a result of strong alignment with District priorities and activities resulting from inclusion of project targets in District performance contracts, the project also leveraged more co-finance than planned at the CEO endorsement stage (see detailed co-finance report). Community involvement in the execution of project activities was good and was facilitated through the project's awareness raising activities and the provision of livelihood improvement and diversification interventions.

In previous reporting periods, the project intervention areas were all handed over to District Mayors during the last Project Steering Committee meeting, conducted on 15 June 2023. Project handover reports were prepared, describing the project achievements, as well as the sustainability plans and commitments of the Districts once REMA has handed over project sites to the Districts. On the basis of the project handover reports, the Mayors agreed to ensure the sustainability of the project interventions in the Districts.

In the lead up to the Project Steering Committee meeting, the PSC members visited project sites in three of the project Districts (Kirehe, Kayonza and Bugesera), to meet with beneficiaries and assess the completion and sustainability of the project interventions. The site visits and discussions with beneficiaries and local authorities further confirmed their ownership of the project interventions and commitment to their maintenance.

In this reporting period, the project Districts have continued to monitor the implemented activities, as included in their work plans and performance contracts. The direct beneficiaries of the EbA and livelihood diversification interventions (communities) also continue to maintain project activities and achievements.

D. Gender Equality

During project implementation, gender parity among beneficiaries was sought as much as possible. Training and restoration activities included women as much as possible. Overall, around 50% of people benefitting from project activities were women. Employment and trainings on the project activities adheres to the national policy requirement that at least 30% are women.

Participation of women in project implementation at the national level was relatively low, as training and meeting participants are selected based on their positions in the institutions they represent. On the other hand, women's participation at the local community level was strong, and women were well represented both in the capacity building activities and in the implementation of project interventions.

In this reporting period, the project team has confirmed that women continue to have strong engagement in the continued implementation, monitoring and maintenance of the project's EbA and livelihood interventions. Their role is particularly important in overseeing and providing guidance for the various income-generating activities, such as beekeeping and agricultural production supported by the project irrigation systems. In Murago wetland (Bugesera district), the cooperative of project beneficiaries has strong participation of women in its leadership and management. It has been very successful in ensuring the continued benefits from the activities, as recognized by the District through additional support provided to the cooperative.

E. Knowledge Management

In this reporting period, UNEP (with support from REMA) produced a web story of the project's beekeeping activities in Kirehe and Ngororero Districts. The finalization of the national EbA upscaling strategy is underway and planned to be completed in Q3 2025.

In previous reporting periods, five final handover reports, one for each project district, were developed. These contain a summary of the on-the-ground project activities in each district, the achievements, the lessons learned, and the roles, responsibilities and commitments after project closure to ensure sustainability of the project results and impacts.

The following documents were also produced by the project during previous reporting periods:

- A report on lessons learnt from the project
- Ecosystem-based Adaptation Guidelines for Climate-Resilient Restoration of Savannah, Wetland and Forest Ecosystems of Rwanda
- Assessment of Climate Change Vulnerability in Rwanda (2018)
- Environment and Natural Resources Management (ENRM) Framework Studies; including 11 reports
- Combined training manual and guidelines for integration of Ecosystem-based Adaptation in Pre-primary, Primary and Secondary Education
- Project case study: "Adaptation case study: Environmental and Social Safeguards in Rwanda" (in collaboration with UNEP)
- Documentary film materials have been produced for all project Districts. The final product is still under finalization.

Management tools:

- Baseline Assessment Report
- Mid-Term Review (MTR)
- Scoping Assessment of Knowledge and Capacity Needs on Ecosystem-based Adaptation

The knowledge products can be found on the project website:
<https://www.rema.gov.rw/our-work/projects/ldef-2>

The ENRM Framework reports can be accessed here.

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	
Components and Cost	
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	
Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	
Executing Entity	
Executing Entity Category	
Minor Project Objective Change	
Safeguards	
Risk Analysis	
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	
Location of Project Activity	
others	

IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Gicaca, Nyagihunika, Rugarama, Nyamigina, Gakomeye, Nziranziza, Kamabuye Cells (Bugesera District, Eastern Province, Rwanda)	-2.230053	30.065058	

Location Description:

Gicaca and Nyagihunika Cells are in Musenyi Sector; Rugarama, Nyamigina and Gakomeye Cells are in Mareba Sector; Nziranziza and Kamabuye Cells are in Shyara Sector, Bugesera District, Eastern Province. This wetland is a proposed RAMSAR site, and interconn

Activity Description:

Restoration of Murago wetland on 52 Ha, including demarcation of the wetland's buffer zone and bamboo plantation

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Gihembe and Bushenyi Cells (Bugesera District, Eastern Province, Rwanda)	-2.238983	30.110486	

Location Description:

Gihembe and Bushenyi Cells are in Ngeruka Sector, Bugesera District, Eastern Province. Lake Cyohoha North is interconnected with Murago wetland and Lake Cyohoha South; the latter borders Burundi. This area is characterised by low rainfall and prolonged dr

Activity Description:

Restoration of Lake Cyohoha North on 115 Ha, including removal of invasive aquatic weeds

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Rugarama Cell (Bugesera District, Eastern Province, Rwanda)	-2.230953	30.066111	

Location Description:

Rugarama Cell is in Mareba Sector, Bugesera District, Eastern Province. This area is characterised by low rainfall and prolonged dry seasons.

Activity Description:

Supply and installation of small scale solar powered irrigation system on 34 Ha. The irrigation system draws water from Murago wetland

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Rugarama Cell (Bugesera District, Eastern Province, Rwanda)	-2.233836	30.066261	

Location Description:

Rugarama Cell is in Mareba Sector, Bugesera District, Eastern Province. This area is characterised by low rainfall and prolonged dry seasons.

Activity Description:

Supply and installation of 254 rainwater harvesting tanks of three cubic meters

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Isangano Cell (Kayonza District, Eastern Province, Rwanda)	-1.960928	30.776331	

Location Description:

Isangano Cell is in Ndego Sector, Kayonza District, Eastern Province. Lake Kibare is interconnected with Akagera river which borders Tanzania. This area is characterised by low rainfall and prolonged dry seasons.

Activity Description:

Restoration of Kibare Lakeshores on 80 Ha, including bamboo and tree plantation, as well as demarcation of the lake's buffer zone

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Isangano Cell (Kayonza District, Eastern Province, Rwanda)	-1.96098	30.775939	

Location Description:

Isangano Cell is in Ndego Sector, Kayonza District, Eastern Province. Lake Kibare is interconnected with Akagera river which borders Tanzania. This area is characterised by low rainfall and prolonged dry seasons.

Activity Description:

Construction of a selling point and hangar for relocation of market activities that were conducted within the lake's buffer zone

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Isangano Cell (Kayonza District, Eastern Province, Rwanda)	-1.959206	30.776094	

Location Description:

Isangano Cell is in Ndego Sector, Kayonza District, Eastern Province. Lake Kibare is interconnects with Akagera river which borders Tanzania. This area is characterised by low rainfall and prolonged dry seasons.

Activity Description:

Supply and installation of solar powered water supply system for 790 cattle. The cattle used to drink water and graze from the buffer zone of Lake Kibare

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Byimana Cell (Kayonza District, Eastern Province, Rwanda)	-1.995556	30.771511	

Location Description:

Byimana Cell is in Ndego Sector, Kayonza District, Eastern Province. The irrigation system draws water from Lake Rwakigeli. Lake Rwakigeli is interconnects with Lake Kibare and Akagera river. This area is characterised by low rainfall and prolonged dry se

Activity Description:

Supply and installation of small scale solar powered irrigation system on 15 Ha. The irrigation system draws water from Lake Rwakigeli

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Gihinga Cell (Kayonza District, Eastern Province, Rwanda)	-1.966722	30.61795	

Location Description:

Gihinga Cell is in Rwinkwavu Sector, Kayonza District, Eastern Province. This site is on Rwinkwavu hill and the area is in the savannah ecosystem, characterised by low rainfall and prolonged dry seasons

Activity Description:

Plantation of trees on 200 Ha

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Nasho Cell (Kirehe District, Eastern Province, Rwanda)	-2.109047	30.844819	

Location Description:

Nasho Cell is in Mpanga Sector, Kirehe District, Eastern Province. This area is in the savannah ecosystem, characterised by low rainfall and prolonged dry seasons. Ibanda-Makera is a remnant natural forest

Activity Description:

Restoration of Ibanda-Makera natural forest on 68 Ha, including enriching of the forest with indigenous tree species

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Mushongi Cell (Kirehe District, Eastern Province, Rwanda)	-2.048694	30.826583	

Location Description:

Mushongi Cell is in Mpanga Sector, Kirehe District, Eastern Province. This area is in the savannah ecosystem, characterised by low rainfall and prolonged dry seasons

Activity Description:

Plantation of agroforestry on 250 Ha and fruit trees on 20 Ha

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Gakoro Cell (Musanze District, Northern Province, Rwanda)	-1.495575	29.711156	

Location Description:

Gakoro Cell is in Gacaca Sector, Musanze District, Northern Province. This area is mountaneous, near Lake Ruhondo. The area is characterised by heavy rainfall, floods and land slides

Activity Description:

Construction of a green village for resettlement of 46 households from Ruhondo islands high risk zone. This include biogas system for cooking, rainwater harvesting tanks, and solar home system

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Gasakuza Cell (Musanze District, Northern Province, Rwanda)	-1.499692	29.706003	

Location Description:

Gasakuza Cell is in Gacaca Sector, Musanze District, Northern Province. This area is mountaneous, near Lake Ruhondo. The area is characterised by heavy rainfall, floods and land slides

Activity Description:

Preparation of 25 Ha of Kiguhu wetland for agricultural purposes by households resettled in Gakoro green village from Ruhondo islands high risk zone

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Nyange and Torero Cells (Ngororero District, Western Province, Rwanda)	-1.850117	29.658297	

Location Description:

Nyange and Torero Cells are in Ngororero Sector, Ngororero District, Western Province. This area is mountaneous, characterised by floods, soil erosion and land slides

Activity Description:

Restoration of Nyiramuhondi watershed on 115 Ha, including construction of radical terraces on 100 Ha, protection of Nyiramuhondi riverbanks on 10 Ha, and enrichment of Gihe forest on 5 Ha

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Sanza Cell (Ngororero District, Western Province, Rwanda)	-1.908106	29.588803	

Location Description:

Sanza Cell is in Muhororo Sector, Ngororero District, Western Province. This area is mountaneous, characterised by floods, soil erosion and land slides. Sanza forest is a remnant natural forest

Activity Description:

Restoration of Sanza remnant natural forest on 22 Ha, including enrichment of the forest with indigenous tree species

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Kanombe, Bibare, and Masoro Cells (Gasabo District, Kigali, Rwanda)	-1.953817	30.144308	

Location Description:

Kanombe Cell is in Nyarugunga Sector, Kicukiro Distrit; Bibare Cell is in Kimironko Sector and Masoro Cell is in Ndera Sector; both Sectors are in Gasabo District; in the City of Kigali. The wetland is rich in biodiversity, particularly amphibians and bi

Activity Description:

Contribution to restoration of Nyandungu wetland on 121.8 Ha by landscaping and plantation of indigenous trees.

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category	Title
M and E Document	GEF_CCA_5194_Rwanda_PIR2025