TERMINAL EVALUATION

Project ID:	9385
Project Name:	Forest Landscape Restoration in the Mayaga Region
Countr(ies):	Rwanda
Implementing Agency:	UNDP

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name Forest Landscape Restoration in the Mayaga Region	
Country Rwanda	
GEF ID 9385	Implementing Agency UNDP
Executing Entity REMA (Rwanda Environmental Management Authority), Gisagara, Ruhango, Nyanza and Kamonyi Districts	
Trust Fund GET	Project Type FSP
Objective To secure biodiversity and carbon benefits while simultaneously strengthening the resilience of livelihoods, through forest landscape restoration and upscaling clean technologies in selected Districts of Southern Province.	

B. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval 8/6/2019	Agency Approval 12/9/2019
Implementation Start 12/9/2019	First Disbursement 5/8/2020
Expected MTR 8/6/2022	MTR Submission 7/1/2026
Actual MTR 9/11/2023	Expected Completion 12/9/2025
Actual Completion 12/25/2025	Actual TE 12/5/2025
TE Submission 7/1/2026	Final Disbursement

C. Disbursements

Project Financing	Cumulative Disbursement
6,803,824.00	6,212,716.81

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Main Terminal Evaluation Findings

Project Design

The Forestry Landscape Restoration in the Mayaga region Project aligns with Rwanda's national goals and GEF-UNDP priorities, addressing ecosystem degradation and rural poverty caused by deforestation, soil erosion, and unsustainable biomass use. The Theory of Change identifies underlying causes like institutional skill gaps and poor resource governance. The project set clear outcomes with measurable targets across ten indicators covering gender responsiveness, livelihood resilience, carbon mitigation, forest landscape restoration (FLR) planning, policy improvement, capacity building, knowledge sharing, resource mobilization, forest security, and sustainable land management.

Recognizing systemic risks such as limited capacity and weak institutions, the design prioritized immediate livelihood benefits, including food production and clean energy adoption, alongside strengthening coordination and community engagement through the Joint Action Development Forum (JADF). Drawing lessons from the LAFREC and FONERWA projects, it incorporated proven technical interventions such as erosion control and clean cooking technologies, using Vision Umurenge Program (VUP) modalities for grants. A comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan defined roles for national agencies, districts, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and local communities as primary FLR actors. Gender equality and youth empowerment are integrated through a detailed Gender Action Plan and external gender expertise. UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards and a Human Rights-Based Approach ensured equitable, nondiscriminatory benefits. The project budget of US$32,706,904 comprised a GEF Grant (US$6,213,538), UNDP Grant (US$1,000,000), and a substantial Government of Rwanda co-financing (US$25,513,366).

M&E System

The project's M&E system features a clear results framework with SMART, quantitative indicators, and baselines for midterm and end targets. It mandates key evaluations like independent Mid-Term Review, Terminal Evaluation, and GEF Tracking Tools, with annual Project Implementation Reports and data from surveys and observations. The GEF Operational Focal Point (OFP) remained engaged throughout the implementation. The M&E framework supported adaptive management and accountability, overseen by a regularly convened Project Steering Committee (PSC). Capacity building improved M&E skills, achieving a 61 Aggregated Capacity Score, and at the Mid-Term Review (MTR) was 59.86, exceeding the 57 score of project end target.

Relevance

The project objectives were fully aligned with key national development frameworks, including the National Strategy for Transformation (NST1), Vision 2050, and the National Forest Policy (2018). The project further contributed to Rwanda's global environmental commitments, particularly supporting the Bonn Challenge pledge to bring two million hectares of degraded land into restoration. The project also integrated social protection mechanisms such as VUP and performance contracts. Local entrepreneurship was strengthened through technical support for efficient cookstove production, alongside efforts to promote sustainable charcoal production and cooperative formation. Youth-led initiatives converting Lantana camara into charcoal

briquettes and harvesting non-timber forest products under sustainable use plans further contributed to inclusive economic empowerment. In addition to aligning with government policies and strategies, all these interventions were aligned with the district development plans (2018-2024). During FGDs, project interventions were consistently described as highly relevant to community priorities and national policy objectives. Participants emphasized that the project addressed pressing environmental challenges such as deforestation, land degradation, and unsustainable energy use, while simultaneously responding to household livelihood needs.

The project directly supported the GEF focal areas of Biodiversity, Climate Change Mitigation, and Land Degradation. Through protecting biodiversity, increasing carbon sequestration, and strengthening livelihoods, the project played an important role in improving the management of natural resources and enhancing climate resilience. The multi-dimensional focus of various restoration interventions also ensured relevance across the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly supporting SDG 15 (Life on Land), SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), and SDG 7 (Clean and affordable energy). The project was highly responsive to local needs and interests, reflecting high stakeholder engagement. The project's high gender consideration was evidenced by its GEN2 rating, meaning that gender equality was fully integrated in the project. The project ensured closing gender gaps in access to resources and increased women's participation in decision-making in landscape restoration interventions.

The project implementation included coordination and synergy with other relevant initiatives, such as the FONERWA project "Integrated Land, Water Resources and Clean Energy Management for Poverty Reduction Project", the project on "Improving the Efficiency and Sustainability of Charcoal and Wood Fuel Value Chains" funded by the Nordic Development Fund (NDF) under financing through the World Bank; the RAB project of Girinka (One cow per poor Family), and the Development of Agroforestry for Sustainable Agriculture in Rwanda (PRODAR) Project financed by the African Development Bank.

Implementation/oversight

UNDP played a vital role from project design to ongoing oversight, ensuring alignment with corporate and GEF standards, environmental and social safeguard compliance, and strong risk management. It supported participatory M&E and built institutional capacity for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and Sustainable Land Management (SLM). REMA managed funds, ensured transparent financial reporting, and maintained risk logs, aligning all activities with UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards. The Project Steering Committee, comprising REMA, UNDP, government ministries, districts, and civil society, ensured coherent cross-sector coordination, with implementation and management processes performing at or above expectations.

Risk Management

The project employed a structured risk management approach using the UNDP Risk Log, with the Project Manager regularly updating and reporting risks to UNDP and the Project Steering Committee. Risks were transparently disclosed in annual Project Implementation Reports. For instance, the COVID-19 pandemic posed significant unforeseen risks, but was quickly mitigated through virtual engagement and expanded teams.

Environmental and social safeguards

Safeguards included mandatory Environmental and Social Impact Assessments and Management Plans, supported by vulnerability assessments and a Grievance Redressal Mechanism to monitor beneficiary concerns. Adaptive management ensured mitigation strategies were adjusted and escalated when necessary. Social safeguards involved thorough gender, socio-economic, and stakeholder analyses, aligning activities with Rwanda's gender equality context and mainstreaming a human rights-based approach. The participatory

process enhanced social equity, empowering vulnerable groups, promoting transparent budgeting, and fostering alliances for inclusive development, ensuring environmental and social sustainability throughout the project.

Effectiveness

The project effectively achieved all three outcomes, benefiting 415,780 people 15% above target. Institutionally, it established four FLR coordination committees under JADF and integrated SFM and FLR into the 2018 National Forest Policy. Environmentally, it restored 35,524.6 hectares through direct and cofinanced efforts, planted nearly 244,000 grafted fruit trees, and distributed 224,877 improved cookstoves, reducing emissions by over 183,000 tCO_2. LPG use in schools trimmed emissions by about 4,600 tCO_2, totaling 625,989.4 tCO2e avoided from all the project relevant interventions. The project used two approaches, namely direct project investment and co-financing.. Socially, the project significantly strengthened livelihoods through diversified interventions, including the distribution of 3,984 cows, including the pass-on scheme, and 17,526 small livestock. Additionally, the project created 100,000 green jobs (52.5% held by women) and provided training to 6,703 people.

Efficiency

The partnership between UNDP, REMA, districts, and partners ensured smooth, efficient project delivery with strong M&E enabling timely decisions. Despite COVID-19outbreak, 100% of the budget was absorbed, and all outputs were achieved on time. Cost-Benefit Analysis showed agroforestry, bamboo restoration, woodlots, and roadside plantations expected to generate positive economic returns, with agroforestry yielding the highest returns. Benefits mainly accrue after upfront costs but remain resilient at varying discount rates. Agroforestry and bamboo are best for scaling up by farmers, while woodlots and roadside plantations may require public funding or incentives for economic viability.

Sustainability and Replicability

The project secured additional financial resources of over US$27 million for continued FLR efforts through GEF-8 and LDCF IV, supported by four FLR plans for durable land management. Institutional sustainability is likely as FLR coordination committees are embedded in Joint Action Development Forums (JADF) and aligning interventions with local governance and Imihigo planning, raising institutional capacity scores from 36.5 to 61. This alignment ensures long-term continuation. Gender outcomes are financially sustainable, with transformative empowerment reflected in a GEN2 rating, as women made up over 60% of beneficiaries and green jobs, gaining leadership roles and financial literacy, reinforcing resilience and stewardship. The project's approach is replicable, evidenced by the CEO endorsement of new large-scale initiatives and adoption across Rwanda, further strengthened by private sector engagement through a 1,000-hectare plantation partnership with New Forest Company.

❖ Additionality

The project clearly demonstrated GEF Additionality by achieving significant Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) that would not have been possible through national funding alone. GEF incremental financing was critical for enabling systemic changes, including policy development/updating, capacity building (increasing the Aggregate capacity score to 61), and mobilizing subsequent large-scale financing that secured the longevity of the restoration impacts.

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Gender equality was a significant objective (GEN2) from the design. The project achieved outstanding social equity results: women constituted 60.8% of total project beneficiaries. Economic empowerment was

prioritized, with women holding 58.88% of the 100,016 green jobs created and comprising 52.12% of livestock recipients. Gender-specific risks were successfully mitigated through inclusive decision-making and access to resources, promoting women's leadership in capacity-building programs (>51% participation).

Crosscutting Areas

The project effectively integrated environmental, social, and governance issues. It adopted a HumanRights-Based Approach (HRBA), prioritizing non-discrimination and equitable access to resources, particularly for vulnerable groups like youth and women-headed households. Climate interventions achieved a cumulative emissions reduction of 625,989.4 tCO_2e through restoration and the upscaling of clean energy (LPG and improved cookstoves), which concurrently relieved the domestic workload associated with firewood collection, thus supporting women's time poverty alleviation.

Progress toward impact

The project achieved significant progress toward environmental stress reduction, institutional reform, and knowledge transfer, fostering long-term climate resilience, poverty alleviation (SDG 1), and clean energy access (SDG 7). It reduced emissions by an estimated 625,989.4 tCO2e through afforestation, agroforestry, and clean energy scaling. Short-term benefits included VUP public works income, improved cookstoves, livestock, and LPG for schools. Institutional capacity for FLR management improved markedly, with agency capacity scores rising from 36.5 to 61, and key policies updated to integrate Sustainable Forest Management. Knowledge dissemination included over 15 technical reports, a Knowledge Management Plan, FLR plans for 263,270 hectares, media coverage, documentaries, and public engagement initiatives to ensure sustained impact.

B. Stakeholder Engagement

Actual stakeholder engagement was a central pillar and critical success factor for the Green Amayaga Project, fostering strong local ownership and embedding results within national and decentralized governance structures. Guided by the original Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), the project utilized a comprehensive, multi-level participatory approach involving government, civil society, the private sector, and local communities.

C. Gender Equality

Gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) as well as gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) were mainstreamed throughout the project, resulting in significant and measurable impacts. Gender and youth concerns were embedded through a Gender Analysis and Action Plan, ensuring gender balance in Stakeholder Working Groups and targeted support for vulnerable groups. Based on the project's Gender Analysis and Action Plan, women and Female Headed Households (FHHs) were identified as most vulnerable to the risks posed by declining ecosystems services and natural resource degradation, and have consequently been particularly targeted by project activities to mitigate these disadvantages (through training in FLR skills, climate smart agriculture, fruit tree agroforestry11 and livestock provision, translating into extra income, improved nutrition, public works, enhanced access to markets and loans. In addition, women benefited from a range of training activities, including leadership training as members and officers of FLR committees.

Also, in the project's risk management, Gender-specific risks were explicitly incorporated, focusing on the potential for women to overcome additional resource access limitations due to historical inequalities. Restriction of community and female rights of access for some areas for example could be countered by the signing of co-management agreements with MINILAF (later RFA) detailing the roles and responsibilities of

all parties involved, sustainable harvesting regimes and benefits to be accrued by the communities, and including to the extent possible, gender issues, under the Community Based Forest Management approach (under Output 3.2).

Likewise, the Umurenge Programme (VUP), which provides cash transfers as payment for public works, was used to engage interested youth groups, both men and women, supported to fabricate charcoal briquettes. Also, benefits were provided to women through the harvesting of NTFPs, and seed funding, training, and seedlings to engage in tree plantations as a commercial venture. The project further facilitated interested female entrepreneurs to set up tree nurseries, to be financed through low-interest loans.

Overall, women accounted for 60.8% of total beneficiaries, surpassing the target ratio and demonstrating equitable access to resources and opportunities. Women's participation (e.g., Photo 9) was prioritized across all project outcomes, from capacity building and training to leadership in FLR committees and livelihood enterprises. Their increased involvement enhanced household decision-making, improved resilience, and contributed to greater environmental stewardship.

Women formed an important part of stakeholder participation at all levels. Key governance entities such as the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and the National Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC) had about a third of female representatives (12 female members out of 45 in the committees) towards the Gender Action Plan's goal of 30% female members for the Project Steering Committee. At the local level, representatives of women's organizations and women's groups were actively participating in the Joint Action Development Forum (JADF), a multi-stakeholder platform empowered to facilitate participatory FLR planning and harmonize activities across sectors. Furthermore, women played an important role in the recurring forums, including Monthly Community Work (Umuganda), parents' evening meetings (Umugoroba w'Ababyeyi), and village assemblies (Inteko Rusange z'Abaturage), ensuring regular feedback loops, adaptive management, and female ownership throughout project implementation.

Institutional efforts included training gender focal points, improving gender-disaggregated data, and fostering collaboration with MIGEPROF, GMO, and the National Women's Council to strengthen grassroots awareness and institutionalize gender equity. According to the Gender Action Plan, every institution concerned had to establish a gender focal point in the respective Department of Planning, disposing of sufficient time to attend to this responsibility. A total of 3,396 women (52.57%) participated in technical training in climate-smart agriculture, forest management, and community-driven development. This empowerment translated into tangible outcomes such as improved income, better nutrition, and increased land productivity. Furthermore, women-headed households received over 52% of livestock support, ensuring that female beneficiaries directly benefited from interventions designed to improve soil fertility and food security.

The project maintained a strong gender-responsive approach. Women made up 60.8% of the total project beneficiaries, which exceeds the male-to-female ratio of 48.3:51.7 for social supports like livestock and cookstoves. Women's participation was prioritized in key interventions, including FLR, clean cooking technologies, and livelihood development, where they made up over 51% of capacity-building participants. The project supported livelihoods by distributing livestock (cows, goats, swine), where 51% of the households supported were female-headed. Training focused on strengthening women's technical skills and ensuring their equitable representation in decision-making processes, which enhanced ownership and effectiveness.

As part of Knowledge Management (KM), the project also documented key results and lessons via knowledge products (two comprehensive video documentaries and over 15 technical reports available online), most of which contain gender related messages. Additionally, more than 26 articles were published across REMA's digital and national media platforms, which also report relevant gender dimensions and lessons learned on gender-sensitive programming implementation and monitoring as part of a gendercentred success story of the FLR project design. Moreover, the TE team's survey findings indicate that the gender distribution of survey respondents varies across the four districts. Ruhango and Gisagara had the highest proportion of female

participants, at 58.7% and 56.9% respectively. In Nyanza, the gender split was more even, with 51.4% female respondents. Conversely, Kamonyi was the only district where male respondents formed the majority, accounting for 52.2% of the total participants.

Women and youth representatives highlighted several gender-specific constraints, including women's limited participation in forest value chains especially in the harvesting and marketing stages and the tendency for men to retain full control of the resulting income. Women additionally faced mobility challenges due to insufficient transport options and cultural norms restricting their use of bicycles, which required them to walk long distances while carrying children and firewood. In response, the project emphasized participatory Forest Landscape Restoration planning to ensure that all gender groups were represented in coordination mechanisms and could engage meaningfully from the grassroots level. Equal opportunities were extended to all groups, with targeted efforts to reach women farmers by enabling their involvement in restoration activities near their homes, thereby improving their mobility, participation, and access to project benefits.

D. Knowledge Management

The FLRM Project actively promoted public awareness and knowledge management, achieving notable engagement and dissemination outcomes. Through extensive collaboration with national and private media, the project secured wide coverage in outlets like IGIHE.com, Kigali Today, and The New Times, alongside active use of social media platforms such as Twitter. These communication efforts enhanced local awareness about environmental management and project sustainability. The project also successfully documented key results and lessons via knowledge products, including two comprehensive documentary videos and over 15 technical reports available online. Additionally, more than 26 articles were published across REMA's digital and national media platforms. Knowledge sharing occurred through formal coordination bodies like the Project Steering Committee (PSC), National Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC), and Stakeholder Working Groups (SWG).

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Outcome 2, Indicator 7: Number of key project lessons and strategies for FLR, SLM/SFM, land consolidation, and clean household and institutional energy documented, disseminated, and adopted at local and national levels. The project met its target by fully documenting and disseminating all key results and lessons learned. Over 26 articles were published across REMA's digital platforms and national media outlets, including IGIHE.com, Kigali Today, and The New Times. Additionally, more than 15 technical reports were made publicly accessible online. A comprehensive Knowledge Management Plan (KMP) was developed and implemented, fostering evidence-based decision-making and enabling replication of successful FLR practices across other regions.

Outcome 2, Indicator 8: Funding mobilized for sustaining implementation of FLR plans post-project. The target of this indicator by the end of the project was to mobilize enough funds for at least 4 additional years of FLR plans implementation. The project exceeded expectations in mobilizing resources for sustained FLR implementation. A well-defined exit strategy was endorsed, leading to the successful approval of two major funding initiatives: The project mobilized a total of US$28.98 million from GEF-8 Ecosystem-Based Restoration Approach for the Nyungwe–Ruhango Corridor Project, with a budget of US$9,932,000, and the LDCF IV Systems-Based Adaptation and Integrated Resource Management Project, with a total budget of US$19,048,625. Together, these initiatives secure financing for at least four additional years of FLR activities, ensuring continuity and deepening the impact of the project's achievements. Thus, the project achieved Outcome 2 with a Highly Satisfactory rating, demonstrating significant enhancement of both individual and institutional capacities to plan and implement gender-sensitive Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) strategies.

These efforts were reinforced by a robust knowledge management framework that ensured documentation, dissemination, and uptake of key lessons.

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The effectiveness and replicability of the FLR Mayaga model were directly supported by the systematic capture and dissemination of project results through an actively implemented Knowledge Management Plan (KMP). This commitment to producing a public good maximizes the project's catalytic effect. A robust inventory of knowledge products and communication outputs confirms the effectiveness of this strategy (Mandatory Indicator 7 achievement). Table 20 presents a summary of knowledge and communication outputs.

III. Core Indicators

Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	26855	26452.9	37804

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	555.00	466.90	2,279.40

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	26,300.00	25,986.00	35,524.60

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)		4700825	346646	625989.4
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)		12950839		

Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)		4340825	346,646	625,989.4
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)		12,950,839	0	0
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)		360000	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female		187,229	239,387	252,794
Male		174,915	148,875	162,986
Total	**0**	**362,144**	388,262	**415,780**

IV: Co Financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Anticipated at CEO($)	Materialized at MTR($)	Materialized at TE($)
Recipient Country Government	GoR – Gisagara District	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	6,954,989.00	5,180,875.00	6,954,989.00
Recipient Country Government	GoR – Nyanza District	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,867,597.00	2,294,330.00	3,867,597.00
Recipient Country Government	GoR – Ruhango District	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,149,660.00	2,087,015.00	2,149,660.00
Recipient Country Government	GoR – Kamonyi District	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	5,959,238.00	2,294,331.00	5,959,238.00
Recipient Country Government	GoR – Ministry of Land and Forestry	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,929,625.00	1,323,457.00	2,060,155.00
Recipient Country Government	GoR – Rwanda Water and Forestry Authority	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,097,967.00	796,178.00	1,097,967.00
Recipient Country Government	GoR – Rwanda Environment Management Authority	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,060,155.00	1,462,644.00	1,929,625.00
Recipient Country Government	Fonerwa	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,474,135.00	891,654.00	1,474,135.00
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,000,000.00	1,074,578.11	1,440,425.00
Total Co-financing				**26,493,366.00**	**17,405,062.11**	**26,933,791.00**

Comments

Please see the attached co-financing template, which is the source of these figures.

V: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
		Medium/Moderate	Medium/Moderate

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

The project adhered to UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards (SES) through the implementation of the Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) and an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP). Under the PPG (GEF), socio-economic, stakeholder, and gender analyses were carried out to improve understanding of baseline conditions, identify community-level social risks including human rights concerns and develop risk-mitigation measures using the SESP checklist. It also assessed community roles in project implementation, secured local communities' understanding of and consent to the project, facilitated their engagement in project development and execution, and prepared a gender assessment and gender-mainstreaming strategy. Throughout this process, the consultants employed by the project held extensive consultations with a broad range of stakeholders, including village communities, as documented in the Stakeholder Analysis Report, Socio-economics Report and Gender Analysis and Action Plan. Under output 2.3, the draft gender plan, later developed into a full-fledged Gender Action Plan (GAP), guided project implementation6 , ensuring that gender considerations were systematized throughout the implementation.

Regarding gender mainstreaming, Rwanda's strong gender-equality context, evidenced by women holding 56% of parliamentary seats, informed the project's thorough social impact and risk analyses, ensuring that activity selection aligned with best practices for empowering all gender groups. The project supported increased food production and introduced forest-based enterprises in areas where women-headed households were identified as most vulnerable. These efforts benefited women and poor households by reducing risks associated with ecosystem degradation, declining land productivity, and natural resource loss factors that otherwise would have increased food insecurity, livelihood vulnerability, and health risks for vulnerable groups, as had been emphasized in the Gender Action Plan.

As confirmed with REMA project coordinator, the very low risk of physical displacement of people who may have encroached the natural forests (especially those who may have cultivated fields and charcoal burning activities in restricted use areas) in regard to the Kibirizi-Muyira Natural Forests, an Environment and Socio-Economic Impacts Management Plan (ESMP) was prepared7 . A formal resettlement reportedly was not required (in line with UNDP's SES), and for a few people affected by the GoR Imidugudu (village) settlement policy could be applied, in respect of disaster risk reduction intervention to avoid resettling people in disaster-prone areas and providing them with alternative livelihoods.

As reported in the SESP Report, the project overall mainstreamed the human-rights-based approach to development, enhanced gender equality and women's empowerment, and integrated environmental sustainability as key principles to reinforce Social and Environmental Sustainability. With respect to the human rights-based approach, the project applied core human rights principles participation, inclusion, and equitable access to development opportunities. Its design, implementation, and monitoring were guided by participation, non-discrimination, and accountability. UNDP and the Government of Rwanda continued to value participation as both a development objective and a means of empowering stakeholders to understand and exercise their roles and responsibilities.

The participatory approach used in project design was carried forward into implementation. This approach ensured a human rights-based methodology by: (i) identifying rights-holders/ local communities, clarifying

their entitlements to natural resource use for livelihoods and economic progress, and building their capacities; (ii) identifying Government duty-bearers and their obligations to provide technical support and policy guidance, and strengthening their capacities; (iii) ensuring that project design drew on a causality analysis that highlighted root causes of ecosystem decline and potential discriminatory patterns in benefit sharing; and (iv) deepening understanding of the relationships between rights-holders and duty-bearers to help bridge critical capacity gaps in legislation, institutions, policies, and public voice.

The participatory process also fostered broader alliances for social change across the targeted Districts by promoting transparent budgeting, strengthening budget-analysis capacities, supporting advocacy for essential data, and building competencies in policy analysis and social impact assessment. The project built on rather than replaced local knowledge and capacities in land and forest management, thereby promoting learning, supporting empowerment, building social capital, and creating enabling conditions for communities and technical staff of relevant ministries to implement actions that improved livelihoods across all gender groups.

In addition, project implementation advanced the human rights approach by: (i) delivering an enhanced extension package aimed at reversing ecosystem-service loss, while educating communities to better understand their rights to natural resources, the link between these rights and sustainable development, and ways to strengthen ecosystem and livelihood resilience through improved practices such as increasing tree cover; (ii) providing incentives for duty-bearers through renewed technical training, field resources, community engagement, and improved agro-forestry and plantation germplasm; and (iii) reinforcing accountability mechanisms at central and local levels to improve ecological productivity, climate resilience, and returns on investment critical factors underlying resilient and rights-based economic development.

Recognizing that insufficient resources can impede the realization of human rights, the project mobilized additional resources that enabled the Government to advance the right to sustainably utilize natural resources for local development. It improved land productivity at local levels and enhanced market access for agroforestry-based enterprises, which in turn stimulated economic growth and helped reduce poverty. Women-headed households and low-income groups received prioritized support for demonstration activities such as agroforestry-based food production, biodiversity-friendly land and forest management, and access to high-efficiency cookstoves.

Regarding environmental considerations, the project supported UNDAP/UNSDCF priorities on environmental sustainability by strengthening capacity for sustainable management of Rwanda's natural capital, particularly through SFM in a landscape approach that increased forest cover and land productivity. It contributed directly to Outcome 3, which aimed to enhance systems for environmental and natural resource management, renewable energy access, and climate resilience, consistent with Rio+20 principles. The project supported Outputs 1.3.2 (capacity strengthening in environmental management, climate mitigation and adaptation), 1.3.4 (resource-efficient technologies and cleaner production), and 1.3.5 (planning and management of Green Villages).

It also contributed to Outcome 1.2, particularly Output 1.2.1 on agricultural innovation and value chains, as well as outcomes related to strengthening national and local institutions in research generation, use of disaggregated data for evidence-based policy planning, and mainstreaming gender equality across policies, strategies, and budgets.

The investment advanced progress toward several Aichi Targets, including Strategic Goal B on reducing pressures on biodiversity and promoting sustainable use. It supported Target 5 (halving habitat loss and reducing degradation), Target 7 (sustainable management of agriculture, aquaculture, and forestry), and Target 9 (identification, control, and prevention of invasive species).

VI. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category	Prefix	Title
M and E Document	Tracking Tool	Core Indicators
M and E Document	Terminal Evaluation (TE)	GEF9385_UNDP5702_FY26_TE_UNDP_Rwanda_MFA_FSP
M and E Document	Tracking Tool	Co-financing template