

NYUNGWE AGROFORESTRY FOR COMMUNITIES AND CONSERVATION (NAP)

YEAR 2024 IMPLEMENTATION REPORT



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Gasaka sector

Nyamagabe district

Rwanda



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Janvier NGABO



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NAP FINANCING AND IMPLEMENTATION SCHEME

PROJECT FINANCING SCHEME

The project is financed by Livelihoods Fund. The Livelihoods Funds, established in 2011, aim to combat climate change, protect natural resources, and support rural and agricultural communities by involving local people and fostering coalitions. Their work is grounded in two pillars: the Livelihoods Carbon Funds (LCF), which use carbon finance to restore ecosystems and support long-term rural projects like reforestation and agroforestry and the Livelihoods Fund for Family Farming (L3F), which transforms supply chains and sustainably source products from smallholders. By partnering and tailoring efforts to specific local contexts, Livelihoods empowers communities across the globe to drive sustainable change.



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PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION SCHEME

The Project is implemented by Initiative pour la Promotion de la Famille et du Genre (IPFG), a women led organization founded in 2002 and officially registered in 2006. IPFG is implementing projects in Southern and Western Provinces, Republic of Rwanda.

The areas of intervention of IPFG are Climate change adaptation and mitigations, Agricultural production chains, promoting gender, fighting against GBV and conflict resolution in the families and Youth empowerment.

IPFG is implementing since 2024 the NAP, a 20-year long term project in the eastern parts of Nyungwe National Park, in Nyamagabe and Nyaruguru districts



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1. Introduction

The NAP commenced in January 2024 as planned, encompassing two districts: Nyamagabe (specifically Nkomane Sector) and Nyaruguru (Muganza Sector). Upon its launch, NAP staff promptly initiated field activities to fulfil project objectives in the year 1, including farmer recruitment, farmer training, tree preparation and starting tree growing activities, in both crop and tea plots. From community engagement to the 1st planting campaign, the NAP traversed various stages, employing diverse strategies. This concerted effort resulted in the mobilization of 25 villages (9 in Nyamagabe and 16 in Nyaruguru) and the establishment of 25 environmental committees with 119 members (49 in Nyamagabe and 70 in Nyaruguru) at the village level. These committees played a pivotal role in mobilizing communities, providing coaching and training support with their respective NAP field officers, and crucially, assisting in tree planting activities for 2,350 households (HHs) with 1061 in Nyamagabe and 1289 in Nyaruguru, including 32% female-headed households (FHHs) across the implementing sectors.



2. Implementation status

2.1. Local stakeholder consultation

Two local stakeholder consultation sessions have been conducted, yielding constructive feedback that has been incorporated into the NAP. The input received during these sessions has been instrumental in refining both the project's strategies and its deliverables. A diverse range of stakeholders actively participated, including farmers, local leaders, representatives from public and private institutions, ministry of environment, people with special needs, funders, local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and various other civil society organizations.



2.2. Community Agroforestry Action Planning (CAAP) and farmer registration

Through CAAP, the NAP has facilitated the establishment of environment committees at the village level within implementing communities. Subsequently, these communities received training on the CAAP methodology. This training empowered communities to conduct their own climate change impact assessments, leading to a commitment to implement the NAP in support of local adaptation and mitigation efforts. As a result, 24 CAAPs have been developed across 25 participating villages. This led to community approval and immediate start of individual farmers' mobilization. In addition, 2500 farmers were registered using the Monitoring Information System (MIS) tool.



2.3. Farmer training

Across the 25 mobilized villages, a total of 2,350 farmers (representing 94%) were recruited and trained. This comprehensive training program covered a range of essential topics, including Community Agroforestry Action Planning, the procedures for contract signing, the project's grievance handling mechanism, and, most importantly, effective agroforestry practices. As a result of this training, these farmers are now equipped with the necessary skills to successfully cultivate agroforestry trees.



2.4. Seedlings production

Agroforestry seedlings, encompassing both **indigenous** and **exotic** species, were produced within the implementing sectors. A total of 14 distinct species were produced, including *Persea americana*, *Solanum betaceum*, *Myrianthus holstii*, *Grevillea robusta*, *Citrus sp*, *Alnus acuminata*, *Vernonia amygdalina*, *Polyscias fulva*, *Croton megalocarpus*, *Markhamia lutea*, *Cedrella serrata*, *Maesopsis eminii*, *Dombeya torrida*, and *Podocarpus falcatus*. Thus, a total of 274,975 seedlings covering above species were produced across these implementing sectors.



2.4. Satellite nursery establishment and seedlings distribution

To enhance the easy availability and accessibility of seedlings for farmers and improve the hardening and management of seedlings during their distribution, satellite nurseries were established across the implementing villages. These nurseries were set up and managed by the environment committees within their respective villages, who were also responsible for their ongoing care and maintenance. Thus, a total of 18 satellite nurseries were established across 18 villages. Villages that already hosted the main nurseries did not receive satellite nurseries, as it was convenient for their farmers to collect seedlings directly from the main sites.



2.5. Seedlings distribution and planting

Following training, farmers prepared their land and received seedlings based on their land size and the specific agroforestry model. Under the Crop Agroforestry Model, 188 trees per hectare were distributed, while the Tea Agroforestry model allocated 66 trees per hectare. A total of 224,672 diversified seedlings were distributed across participating areas. Before receiving seedlings, farmers signed the contract named locally the ownership certificates outlining benefits in growing trees, and farmers responsibilities and granting carbon credits generated by trees grown to IPFG and LV.



2.6. Plastic bags collection and disposal

In an effort to protect the environment and minimize seedling costs, the subsequent activity involved the collection and disposal of plastic bags. This task was undertaken collaboratively by ECs and the farmers they were supporting. The collected bags were provided to NAP staff responsible for each location, counted, and then transferred to the IPFG office stores.

As a result of the first collection effort, 68% of the plastic bags from the total seedlings distributed were collected and stored. The second collection phase is currently underway, with the aim of retrieving all remaining plastic bags to further protect the environment and facilitate their reuse.



3. Challenges encountered

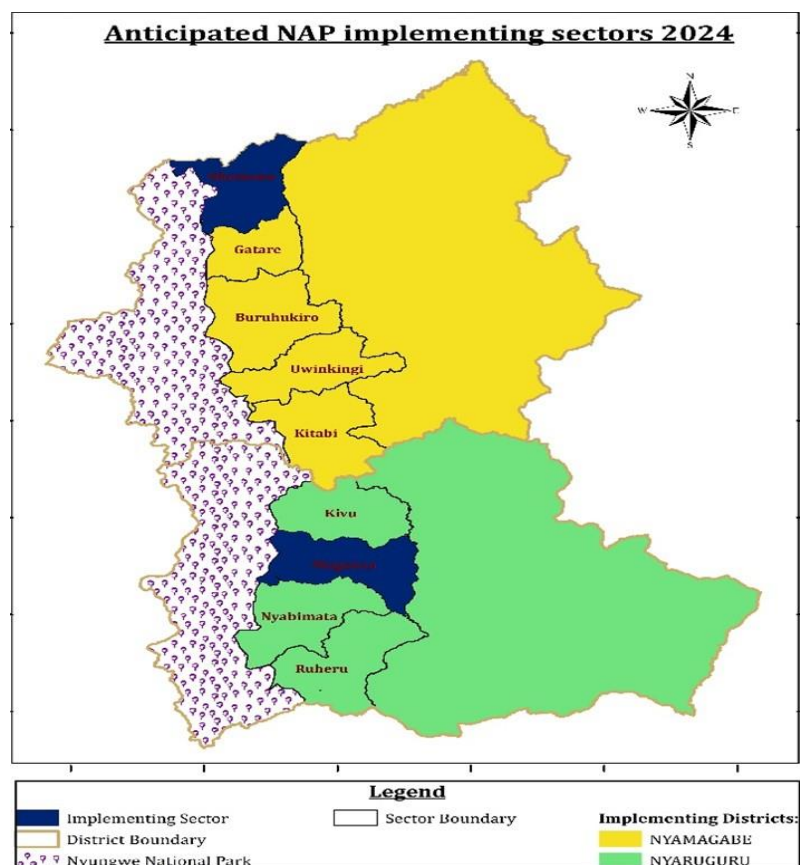
1. The climate of the location the seasonality of seeds presented challenges for the production of certain seedlings, from seed sourcing through to production. This resulted in the inability to produce one species (*Albizia gummifera*) and made the production of others (grafted fruits and *Myrianthus holstii*) considerably more difficult to produce.

2. The scattered and small size of farmers' land plots necessitated an extension of the farmer registration period, and delayed farmers' training periods.

4. Lesson learnt

- Seedlings preparation necessitates early preparation to cope with the Rwandan tree planting seasons.
- The climate around Nyungwe is cold, so necessitate seedlings which are produced in the nearby sites. They are the ones to adapt in the early stages of the tree growing
- Farmers in implementing districts have small plots with above 0.5Ha per HH. In some areas, to reach targeted areas need recruitment of more farmers than planned.
- Community approaches involving Environment committees at village level are key to success of the project. So, those local committees need to be well followed, coached, monitored, evaluated and motivated

5. Year 2024 implementing sectors



6. Seedlings distribution to farmers by district

No	Species	Nyamagabe	Nyaruguru	Total
1	<i>Persea ammericana</i>	11,276	12,359	23,635
2	<i>Maesopsis emminii</i>	9,246	10,468	19,714
3	<i>Citrus sp</i>	4,360	4,942	9,302
4	<i>Alnus acuminata</i>	24,600	29,035	53,635
5	<i>Poliscias fulva</i>	7,534	9,944	17,478
6	<i>Solanum betaceum</i>	6,317	6,334	12,651
7	<i>Grevillea robusta</i>	16,101	18,876	34,977
8	<i>Croton megalocarpus</i>	5,040	6,002	11,042
9	<i>Cedrella serrata</i>	4,995	5,614	10,609
10	<i>Vernonia amygdalina</i>	2,346	3,236	5,582
11	<i>Markhamia lutea</i>	9,170	10,245	19,415
12	<i>Myriathus holistii</i>	1,117	2,658	3,775
13	<i>Dombea torrida</i>	148	1,333	1,481
14	<i>Podocarpus falcatus</i>	129	1,247	1,376
TOTAL		102,379	122,293	224,672

OBJECTIVE OF THE REPORT

This report serves to inform all Nyungwe Agroforestry for communities and conservation Project (NAP) stakeholders of the project's achievements thus far in 2024, ensuring they are aware of the current progress.

REPORT NOTE

This report is based on preliminary findings of the year 2024 and is therefore subject to updates as certain activities, such as direct tree replacement and plastic bag collection, etc. are still in progress. Updated information will be communicated in subsequent reports.

HUMBLE REQUEST

We encourage each stakeholder reading this report to provide their insights, questions, and inputs regarding the direction of the NAP Project. Your contributions are valuable in ensuring the smooth progress and ultimate success of this project.

ADDRESSES

To each stakeholder who should have any communication to this report, reach out to us through the following addresses

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