

# GREEN GICUMBI

Strengthening  
Climate Resilience



Government of Rwanda





THIS GROUNDBREAKING  
SIX-YEAR PROJECT IS

one of the largest  
investments

IN RWANDA'S  
GREEN GROWTH

## Green Gicumbi

The Government of Rwanda, through the Ministry of Environment, received a grant of US \$32.8 million from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to increase the resilience of communities vulnerable to climate change in Gicumbi District, Northern Province.

The Green Gicumbi project will directly support 150,000 residents and provide wider benefits to more than 380,000 people. The project will work in six sectors of Gicumbi District including Kaniga, Rubaya, Cyumba, Rushaki, Shangasha, Mukarange.

The project will pilot initiatives that increase climate resilience, accelerate the uptake of low carbon technologies and create green jobs. It will also unlock sustainable rural

growth by increasing incomes and reducing poverty. The project aims to take the successful adaptation and mitigation approaches realised in Gicumbi and expand them across the country.

This groundbreaking six-year project is one of the largest ever investments in Rwanda's green growth and will be implemented by the Rwanda Green Fund (FONERWA).

In addition to the US \$32.8 million grant from the GCF, the Rwanda Green Fund will contribute US \$147,000, Gicumbi District has allocated US \$107,000 while the Wood Foundation is providing US \$106,000.



When we talk about conservation, we think about the next generation because as we develop we are more and more exposed to climate change.

ANASTASE NTEZIRYAYO  
**Vice Mayor, Social and Economic  
Development, Gicumbi District**



## Project Priorities

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Rural households in Gicumbi District are already being impacted by climate change - from drought and erratic rains leading to food and income insecurity, to infrastructure and property damage and water shortages and, in extreme cases, the tragic loss of life. These impacts are exacerbated by erosion, deforestation and a lack of water storage capacity.

An integrated watershed management approach will be utilised given that many people in Gicumbi depend on natural resources and rainfed agriculture. Tackling climate change at the watershed, community and household levels requires multiple integrated interventions. Therefore, this project will focus on four key priority areas.



### Watershed Protection and Climate Resilient Agriculture

The Green Gicumbi project will restore and enhance the ecosystem in a sub-catchment of the Muvumba Watershed by increasing the capacity of communities to renew and sustainably manage forest resources, supporting smallholder farmers to adopt climate resilient agriculture and establishing protective forestry on riverbanks, roadsides and steep slopes.

The project will introduce climate resilient farming with tea cooperatives in Mulindi, including planting that considers future climate change, and will provide weather and climate services for tea and coffee farmers to increase their productivity and reduce losses.

### Forest Management and Sustainable Energy

The Green Gicumbi project will foster sustainable investments in forestry and watershed management by establishing, restoring and managing degraded woodlots and enhancing the community's capacity to provide forest products and services. To address deforestation, the project will increase the use of biogas and efficient cook stoves and reduce the demand for fuelwood by the Mulindi Tea Factory through energy efficiency measures.



**It's hard to live in an area that's at risk from dangerous weather and climate change. But I am happy this project will create jobs for us and give us hope to have better homes.**

**CHRISTINE TUMUKUNDE**  
Kivuruga Village, Gicumbi District



### Climate Resilient Settlements

Improving the resilience of human settlements is at the heart of the Green Gicumbi project. This will be done by managing surface water run-off from settlements to reduce gully formation, floods and landslides and by constructing green social housing developments in Kaniga and Kabeza. This will reduce the number of vulnerable households living in high risk zones. The project will also increase rainwater capture and storage to counter inter-annual rainfall variability.

### Knowledge Development and Transfer and Mainstreaming

The success of the Green Gicumbi project will also be measured by how lessons from its implementation are utilised for climate resilient development across Rwanda. Awareness building, promotion and advocacy will be carried out to support replication across the country.

The project will also increase the capacity of local institutions and communities to sustain investments in watershed protection and green settlements by mainstreaming climate resilient approaches and energy efficiency into existing forestry and tea and coffee extension programmes.



We are grateful for this project and the opportunity we have to contribute to the protection of our environment. We promise our full collaboration.

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MARIE ROSE UFITEYEZU  
Cooperative Abizerwa Byumba

## By The Numbers

### Watershed Protection and Climate Resilient Agriculture

**4,000**

gully plugs and check dams

**6,000**

infiltration ditches

**60k**

tier 1 and 2 stoves

**10k**

tier 3 and 4 gasifier stoves



**30km**

of channels planted with trees, shrubs and bamboo



**198k**

tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions avoided at Mulindi Tea Factory

### Knowledge Transfer and Mainstreaming

**73,960**

communities members and 780 staff from government and civil society trained on climate resilient forestry and construction, watershed management and green settlements

**40**

tree nurseries, tree growers and beekeeping cooperatives established

### Forest Management and Sustainable Energy

**1,375km**

hectares of protective forestry

**50ha**

of agroforestry

**1,250ha**

of forest rehabilitated



**50ha**

of tea planted at higher elevations



**30ha**

of coffee planted at higher elevations

### Climate Resilient Settlements

**200**

low carbon social housing units for climate vulnerable families

**2,300**

domestic biogas units

**8**

institutional biogas units

### Funding Partners

USD **32.8M**  
GCF GRANT

USD **147k**

RWANDA GREEN FUND

USD **107k**

GICUMBI DISTRICT

USD **146k**

WOOD FOUNDATION

## Project Objectives

Sub-catchment of Muvumba watershed restored and small scale farmers supported to adopt climate resilient practices.

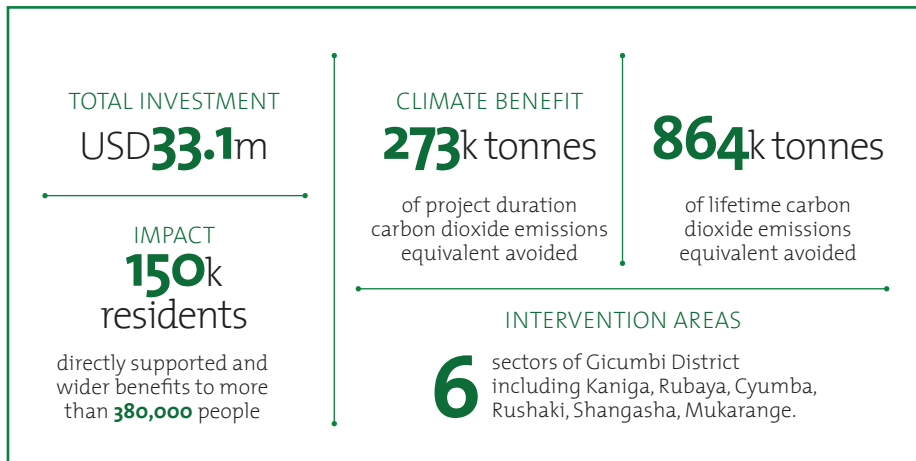
Communities supported to implement sustainable forest management and adopt fuel-efficient cooking methods.

Human settlements developed or modified to increase climate resilience.

Successful adaptation and mitigation approaches communicated and mainstreamed at the national level.

Improved management of land and forest areas contributing to emissions reductions.

Strengthened adaptive capacity and reduced exposure to climate risks.







My hope is that this project will help us improve our harvest and create more jobs.

DINAH TUMUHIMBISE  
**Twisungane  
Cooperative**



I worry that if a major disaster comes, I won't know how to handle it, especially with my children. If I receive support, I would be glad to move from here.

EMMANUEL MUTABAZI  
**Kivuruga Village, Gicumbi District**



## Implementing Partners

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### Ministry of Environment

The Ministry of Environment has the vision to protect Rwanda's environment and build a green and climate resilient nation through sustainable development, and ensures the conservation, protection and enhancement of the environment for Rwanda's socio-economic transformation. The Ministry is the accredited entity for direct access to the Green Climate Fund.



### Rwanda Green Fund

The Rwanda Green Fund (FONERWA) is the national fund for the environment and the engine of green growth in Rwanda. The fund invests in the best private and public projects that have the potential for transformative change and that align with Rwanda's commitment to building a strong green economy. The fund is the implementing partner for the Green Gicumbi project.



### Green Climate Fund

The Green Climate Fund responds to climate change by investing in low-emission and climate-resilient development projects. The GCF was established to limit or reduce greenhouse gas emissions in developing countries, and to help vulnerable societies adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change.



