

AU-AIP AFRICA WATER INVESTMENT SUMMIT 2025

13 - 15 August 2025
Cape Town, South Africa



AU AIP WATER INVESTMENT SUMMIT: PROJECT SHOWCASE

PROGRAMME/ PROJECT OVERVIEW	
Project name	Protecting Kanyaru River watersheds using climate-informed ecosystem-based adaptation to support community resilience
Location	Burundi, specifically the Kanyaru River Basin (which is in the provinces of Ngozi, Kayanza, and Kirundo, along the Burundi-Rwanda border).
Involved countries	N/A
Sub-Sector	Watershed Management, Ecosystem Restoration, Climate-Resilient Agriculture, Water Security.
Project description (Goals and expected outcomes)	Strengthened integrated flood and drought management through Nature-based Solutions, climate-smart agriculture and strengthened climate information and early warning systems
Technological details/ innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reforestation with native species, terraces with drainage channels, contour hedges, bioengineering for riverbanks. • Early warning systems, climate-resilient infrastructure (e.g., elevated walking paths, flood-resistant storage).
Governance improvements / innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training local authorities in integrated climate risk management. • Support development of local adaptation planning committees with representation of women and youth. • Establish monitoring and evaluation systems for adaptation outcomes. • Strengthen community-based organizations and cooperatives for resource management. • Develop community adaptation action plans & local funds.
IMPLEMENTATION & KEY PLAYERS	
Lead institution	Government of Burundi, specifically the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock (as the Designated National Authority).
Implementing agent(s)	UNEP (Accredited Entity), in collaboration with DGEREA, OBPE, IGEBU, DGATI, Ministry of Infrastructure, local NGOs and community structures.
Sponsors / Investors / Contractors / Advisors	Sponsors: Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock Investors: GCF (requested funding of \$32 million) and co-financing (total project cost \$50 million.
PROJECT TIMELINE & DEVELOPMENT STAGE	
Year of preparation, estimated start & end dates	Currently at Concept Note stage. Assume preparation start 2026, Feasibility complete 2027. Estimated start & end dates: 2028 – 2033
Current development stage	Concept Note – Under Development
PROJECT RATIONALE & STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE	
Alignment with national/regional plans, SDGs, Agenda 2063	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised National Development Plan (2023-2027) • National Adaptation Plan (2023) • National Strategy to Combat Climate Change (2022) • SDGs: 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 13 (Climate Action), 15 (Life on Land) • Aligns GCF investment criteria & UNFCCC adaptation commitment.
Contribution to NDC's and alignment with NAPs / Adaptation and Mitigation measures	1. Directly advances Burundi's NDC and NAP (2023) by implementing ecosystem-based adaptation in the Kanyaru watershed, restoring 15,000 ha of degraded land to enhance climate resilience for 216,700 people.

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Paradigm shift potential (scalability, replicability, policy or behaviour change)	High - The project integrates ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) with climate-resilient infrastructure and community empowerment. It is scalable within Burundi and potentially replicable in similar watershed contexts in the Great Lakes region.
FINANCIAL & INVESTMENT DETAILS	
Total project cost, currency	\$ 50M US (from A.8 and A.9: GCF request \$32 million, co-financing \$18 million).
Funding already raised (amount & sources)	Co-financing of \$18 million is expected from the Government of Burundi and other partners (to be confirmed).
Proposed revenue model	Public sector project, so revenue generation not primary.
Financial metrics	N: Planned: N/A for public sector adaptation project at concept stage
Economic performance (Benefit-Cost Ratio) Y/N, date	N: Planned (the project expects to prevent climate-related losses and improve agricultural productivity).
INVESTMENT ASK & WAY FORWARD	
Remaining investment required: project component & type	The project is seeking \$32 million from GCF (as a grant). The co-financing of \$18 million is to be secured.
Opportunity for bundling with other projects (Y/N, date)	Y: the Kanyaru River is transboundary (with Rwanda): there may be potential for regional bundling in future (TBD).
Next steps	- Secure GCF approval for the concept note; - Develop full funding proposal (FFP) with detailed feasibility studies, ESIA, etc.; - Secure co-financing commitments.
TARGET GROUPS & SOCIAL IMPACT	
<u>Direct beneficiary</u> population per project component	Direct beneficiary population: - 216,700 people (from A.7) and 15,000 ha of ecosystems restored and protected; Targets vulnerable communities, with a focus on women and youth
Social & gender impact assessment (Y/N, date)	Y: Planned: GEDSI considerations and plans for gender-responsive actions inclusive (to be done during FFP development).
Job creation estimate / local economic benefit assessment (Y/N, date)	Y: Planned: Not quantified
SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS	
Environmental compliance & climate assessment (Y/N, date)	Y: an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) to be developed.
Environmental impact assessment (Y/N, date)	Y : Planned; to be developed (as part of the ESMP)
ESG performance (Y/N, date)	Y: Planned: The project will have positive environmental impacts (ecosystem restoration, reduced erosion) and social benefits (gender inclusion).
Safeguards & community engagement (Y/N, date)	Y: stakeholder consultations and inclusive planning commenced and will continue.
RISK MANAGEMENT	
Main risks & mitigation measures (Political, Legal, etc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institutional: Weaknesses in local capacity: embed training & capacity building into programme for DGEREA/IGEBU staff, & integrated technical support. Climate/Environment: Extreme weather conditions: flexible work plans and phased interventions. Social: Land conflicts: inclusive land use planning & grievance mechanisms.
Constraints or bottlenecks to finance	Secure co-financing \$18M US.
CONTACT INFORMATION	
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