



# ORGANIZATION PROFILE

## APEFA RWANDA

Email: [apecarwanda@gmail.com](mailto:apecarwanda@gmail.com)

Website: [www.apecarwanda.org](http://www.apecarwanda.org)

Tel: 078830 5736

KN 45 Ave 14 Kigali



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

to our stakeholders _____	3
ABOUT US _____	4
Our Strategy _____	5
our approach _____	6
Planning with community _____	6
Work with women _____	6
Mobilize communities. _____	6
Our Principles _____	7
Our expertise _____	8
Environmental and Social Impact Assessment _____	8
Improving agricultural productivity through climate-smart practices _____	8
Building household and community resilience to climate change _____	9
Driving sustainable solutions to improve nutrition and food security outcomes. _____	9
OUR ACHIEVEMENTS _____	10

# TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS

Whether you are already familiar with our work or reading this profile for the first time, thank you for taking an interest in APEFA's ever-expanding story. We are a dynamic organization with an extraordinary culture and an incredible commitment to our mission. Our staff members have strong technical capability and deep roots in our communities that allow us to make meaningful, measurable, and lasting impact in partnership with the people we serve.

Part of our common DNA is a sense of deep empathy; concern for others; intellectual curiosity and a dedication to learning, innovation and progressing our individual and collective competence.

We approach work with a sense of urgency because we understand the challenges we face as a global community. But we also approach our work with a sense of hope, optimism, and even unabashed idealism. We know – in our hearts and in our heads – that empowering our communities to lead long-term transformational change is not only possible; it is essential.

At APEFA Rwanda, we strive to create a culture that honors the dignity of every individual. Whether an employee or our partner, we are all expected to act with the highest respect for each other and the communities we serve.

As you learn more about our organization and programming, I invite you to join us.

**Oscar NZABONIMPA**

Executive Director, APEFA

# ABOUT US

APEFA is a National Non-Government Organization founded by people concerned by environment degradation and food security in Rwanda. It aims at supporting the country to create resilient agricultural ecosystems and sustainable food security through driving climate-smart practices, implementing sustainable solutions to improve nutrition and food security outcomes and improving watershed management.

APEFA works to give vulnerable communities the opportunity to lift themselves out of food insecurity and malnutrition. By equipping people with the knowledge and tools they need to feed themselves.

APEFA is Legally established by Ministerial order No. 99/11 of 31 July 2008 published in the Official gazette No 16 of 15/08/2008 and renewed by Rwanda Governance Board through a certificate of compliance published in the official gazette No. 38 of 22 September 2014.

***We put women and girls in the center because we know that we cannot overcome poverty until all people have equal rights and opportunities.***

# OUR STRATEGY

- ✓ **Improve agricultural production and create new opportunities for security and prosperity.**
- ✓ **Strengthen the resilience of communities to climate change.**
- ✓ **Reduce Food insecurity and improve nutrition, especially among mothers and children.**



# OUR APPROACH

While adapted to meet local challenges and opportunities wherever we work, all our programs have the same foundation in these three pillars.

## Planning with community

Through the Community-based Participatory Planning (CBPP), communities are placed in the driver's seat of planning, while contributing to their own resilience building efforts and development.

Through this tool we produce the plan in five steps : (a) site selection based on pre-defined criteria that include community buy-in and degree of local government ownership; (b) formation of a multi-disciplinary planning team, with participation of key stakeholders, farmers' representatives (targeting opinion leaders and 50% of women ) , district officers and entrepreneurs, local experts and others; (c) Establishment of Local Awareness Committees to Provide project management with a pool of trained human resources to conduct awareness activities, Greatly facilitate the dissemination of information about the project to new audiences and Promotes a feeling of community identity with the Project; (d) detailed socio-economic and technical survey and analysis; and (e) drafting of a plan for site development; and (f) community feedback and plan finalizations.

## Work with women

We firmly believe that empowering women to be key change agents is an essential element to achieving the end of food insecurity and poverty. Wherever we work, our programs aim to support women and build their capacity.

## Mobilize communities.

Our strategies seek to build people's capacities, leadership, and confidence. We train women and men, equipping them with the skills, methods and knowledge needed to take self-reliant actions to improve their lives and conditions in their communities.

We use also the 'Twigire' extension model which is a national strategy that decentralizes extension services to the village level (Umudugudu), to empower the agricultural promoters living daily with farmers.



# OUR PRINCIPLES

Through our work to end food insecurity and environment degradation, we have recognized these principles as being fundamental to APEFA. We challenge ourselves to ensure that each of our strategies builds on these principles.

## **1. Gender Equality.**

An essential part of ending hunger must be to cause society-wide change towards gender equality. Women bear the major responsibility for meeting basic needs, yet are systematically denied the resources, freedom of action and voice in decision-making to fulfill that responsibility.

## **2. Empowerment.**

In the face of social suppression, focused and sustained action is required to awaken people to the possibility of self-reliance, to build confidence, and to organize communities to take charge of their own development.

## **3. Sustainability.**

Solutions to ending food insecurity must be sustainable locally, socially, economically, and environmentally.

## **4. Holistic Approach.**

Hunger is inextricably linked to a nexus of issues including climate change, education, and environmental sustainability. Only in solving these together will any of them be solved on a sustainable basis.

## **5. Decentralization.**

Individual and community ownership of local development is critical. Actions are most successful if decisions are made close to the people. This requires effective local government working in partnership with the people.

***In sum, Food insecurity can be ended, but not by merely doing more of the same. Hunger is primarily a human issue, and ending hunger requires principles that are consistent with our shared humanity.***

# OUR EXPERTISE

## Environmental and Social Impact Assessment

At APEFA, we are cognizant that an ESIA report is much more than just a technical document. It leads to the development of often legally binding commitments based on and enshrined in an environmental and social management plan (ESMP). This is a living document that develops over the life of the project and is often independently monitored. In this way, it is a developer's technical environmental and social assessment of a project and a key element of corporate social responsibility and, ultimately, of a company's licence to operate.

At APEFA, we have extensive experience in the production of ESIA's and ESMPs for different development projects. We offer a comprehensive range of ESIA-related services from screening through scoping studies to full impact assessments and mitigation, stakeholder engagement, development and monitoring of ESMPs.

We offer an integrated approach that covers all aspects of environmental and social baselining, and impact assessment. We incorporate such key elements as biodiversity assessment and offsets, human rights and health issues, and critical habitat and ecosystem services assessments.

## Improving agricultural productivity through climate-smart practices

APEFA promotes sustainable agricultural practices by sharing expertise that enables farmers to increase productivity, improve quality, and enhance market value of their crops to meet the economic and nutritional needs of families and communities.

Our focus is on:

**Irrigation infrastructure:** Rwanda has high annual rainfall which it has traditionally been able to exploit for seasonal agriculture. However, seasonal agriculture is vulnerable to climate change and population pressure, as even slight changes in rainfall patterns can have significant impacts on crop and livestock production.



The uncertainty in the timing of wet seasons makes it difficult for farmers to know when to plant and to harvest to produce a good crop. Our interventions in small scale Irrigation infrastructure gives farmers more control of the water resource and reduces the vulnerability to changing rainfall patterns. It also allows for diversification of crops, contributes to efficient land and water usage, and provides water to dry areas.

**Agroforestry:** Rwanda does not have the land available to expand its forests and plantations, yet the majority of the population depends on wood for cooking and will continue to do so until electricity is available and affordable for all. Agroforestry will provide wood for fuel and social protection while avoiding deforestation. APEFA promote different systems of agroforestry to provide construction materials as well as livestock fodder and food (fruit and nuts) which improve food security and reduced soil erosion.

## **Building household and community resilience to climate change**

APEFA's work enhances the ability of individuals, households, and communities to mitigate and adapt to the impact of climate change. APEFA supports smallholder farmers and their communities to increase food security and manage risk by diversifying livelihoods, improving access to functional markets, building social and systemic support systems, and promoting disaster risk reduction strategies.

## **Driving sustainable solutions to improve nutrition and food security outcomes.**

APEFA recognizes that agricultural development and nutrition are intimately interconnected. To promote the interaction between agriculture and nutrition, APEFA presents opportunities for practical and economically sound agricultural diversification systems. We adopt a gender-focused lens and use social behavior change to improve the accessibility and affordability of food. APEFA enables vulnerable communities to improve their intake of nutritious foods, particularly women and children.

## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

No	Project name	Main Activities	Fund received (Frws)	Donors	Year project
	Community capacity building in the area of livelihoods and agroforestry for forest Landscape restoration in The Mayaga Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Community Skills in Environmental and Natural Resources Management enhanced</li> <li>✓ Technical Assistance to Farmer Groups for Resilient Livelihoods Sub-Projects Provided</li> <li>✓ Technical back-stopping support in Forest Management Provided</li> <li>✓ Capacity Building in Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA)</li> </ul>	489,000,000	REMA	2021-2023
1	<i>Knowing water better project in Rulindo District</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Increase the awareness and capacity on use of water in irrigation.</li> <li>✓ Install 3 solar pumps for green irrigation technologies</li> <li>✓ Integrate Small Scale Irrigation Technologies with other income generating activities such as aquaculture and poultry</li> </ul>	69,375,000	FAO	2019-2020
2	Sebeya Landscape Restoration and Integrated Water Resources Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Increase awareness on sebeya landscape restoration</li> <li>✓ Capacity building on landscape and water resources management and restoration</li> </ul>	600,000,000	Netherlands Embassy via Rwanda Water and Forestry Authority and IUCN	2019-2022
3	"Improving the livelihood of the smallholder farmers by promoting the climate resilient agriculture in Bugesera District"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Increase the awareness and Capacity on drought Mitigation and adaptation and on compost making and use for improved soil fertility, measures for the vulnerable smallholder farmers;</li> </ul>	21,350,150	UNDP GEF/SGP	2018-2019

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Install 2 water harvesting dams and install 4 solar pumps for green irrigation technologies</li> <li>✓ capacity building in postharvest handling process, storage and value chain</li> </ul>			
4	Rational use of Yanze river water for local agriculture development in Rulindo District and for domestic use in Kigali City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Capacity building on efficiency water use</li> <li>✓ Trainings on vegetable value chain;</li> <li>✓ Installation of 4 rain and river water harvesting ponds (<b>250m<sup>3</sup> each</b>) for small scale irrigation;</li> <li>✓ Supply of improved seeds to farmers</li> <li>✓ River bank protection (<b>10Ha</b>)</li> </ul>	42,250,000	FAO	2017
5	Organise a training Workshop on the Guide on the use of cover crops to sustainably increase maize production in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) ( <i>Mali, Rwanda, Mozambique and Zambia</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ All Logistics for participants</li> <li>✓ Prepare the working package for participants</li> <li>✓ Organize field trip</li> <li>✓ Reporting</li> </ul>	34,527,360	FAO	2017
6	Land Husbandry and afforestation works in Sebeya Catchment at Rubavu and Rutsiro Districts ( <b>634.4 Ha</b> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Progressive terraces</li> <li>✓ Radical terraces</li> <li>✓ Agroforestry</li> <li>✓ River bank protection</li> </ul>	996,000,000	-RNRA -Water for Growth Rwanda	2017-2019
7	Landscape Approach to Forest restoration and Conservation project (LAFREC) " <i>Enrichment of Gishwati forest</i> " ( <b>439 Ha</b> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Plantation of indigenous species in Gishwati Foresty (Gishwati national Park)</li> </ul>	287,778,922	REMA	2016-2018

8	Reducing Vulnerability to Climate Change in North West Rwanda through Community Based Adaptation (RV3CBA) Project (Phase I & II) <b>(807.5 Ha)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Progressive terraces</li> <li>✓ Radical terraces</li> <li>✓ Agroforestry</li> <li>✓ River bank protection</li> <li>✓ Mugogo lowland protection</li> </ul>	2,165,423,000	RNRA	2014-2018
9	Lake Victoria Environnement Management Plan (Rulindo and Huye) (LVEMP II) <b>(435 Ha progressive Terraces and 43.5 Ha Buffer zone)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Progressive terraces</li> <li>✓ River Bank Protection</li> <li>✓ Agroforestry</li> <li>✓ Fruits</li> </ul>	263,202,362	RNRA	2014-2017
10	Supervision of Forest management in KARONGI, Nyamasheke and Rusizi Districts	Supervision for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Nursery preparation</li> <li>✓ Trees plantation</li> <li>✓ Maintenance and guarding</li> </ul>	214,000,000	PAREF NI2/RNRA	2014-2016
11	Land Husbandry, Water Harvesting and Hillside irrigation/LWH-MINAGRI <b>(500 Ha)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Bench Terraces</li> <li>✓ Tree planting</li> <li>✓ Maintenance andguarding</li> </ul>	1,190,000,000	MINAGRI	2014-2016
12	Gishwati Water and Land Management/GWLM <b>(200 Ha)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Bench Terraces</li> <li>✓ Tree planting</li> <li>✓ Maintenance andguarding</li> </ul>	303,000,000	MINAGRI	2012-2013
13	Rwinkwavu D <b>(175 Ha)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Bench terraces;</li> <li>✓ Tree planting;</li> <li>✓ Maintenance and guarding</li> </ul>	388,500,000	MINAGRI/LWH	2012-2013
14	Marshland management <b>(350 Ha)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Leveling of Matimba Marshland</li> </ul>	240,000,000	MINAGRI Task force of Irrigation	2013
15	Forest management In Kayonza <b>(789 Ha)</b> , Nyagatare <b>(1293 Ha)</b> and Gishwati <b>(774 Ha)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Nursery preparation</li> <li>✓ Trees plantation</li> <li>✓ Erosion controllines</li> <li>✓ Maintenance andguarding</li> </ul>	996,000,000	RNRA	2011-2013
16	Study on Socio-economic baseline survey of displaced in Gishwati Natural forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Nursery preparation</li> <li>✓ Trees plantation</li> <li>✓ Erosion controllines</li> <li>✓ Maintenance and guarding</li> </ul>	30,000,000	UNDP/SGP	2013

17	Maintenance of Sebeya river and its tributaries in NGORORERO, RUTSIRO and RUBAVU Districts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Nursery preparation</li> <li>✓ Trees plantation</li> <li>✓ Erosion controllines</li> <li>✓ Maintenance andguarding</li> <li>✓ Demarcation line on 10 m of buffer zone</li> </ul>	129,375,200	RNRA	2012
18	Sebeya river bank protection and their tributaries with agroforestrytrees plantation, bamboo plantation in Rubavu District, Kanama Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Nursery preparation</li> <li>✓ Trees and reeds plantation</li> <li>✓ Erosion controllines</li> <li>✓ Maintenance andguarding</li> <li>✓ Demarcation line on 10 m of buffer zone</li> </ul>	96,842,408	MINIRENA /District RUBAVU	2012
20	Afforestation of 250 haand agroforestry trees planting on 100ha in MUTUNTU/ KARONGI District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Nursery preparation</li> <li>✓ Trees plantation</li> <li>✓ Erosion controllines</li> <li>✓ Maintenance andguarding</li> <li>✓ Demarcation line</li> </ul>	57,400,000	IFDC/CAT ARIST VIA MIG	2011
21	Afforestation of 250 ha and agroforestry trees planting on 100ha Kinyababa Sector/BureraDistrict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Nursery preparation</li> <li>✓ Trees and reeds plantation</li> <li>✓ Erosion controllines</li> <li>✓ Maintenance andguarding</li> </ul>	54,935,000	IFDC/CAT ARIST Via MIG	2011
22	Production and plantationof 656 000 seedling, in which 576 000 of afforestation and 80 000 seedlings agroforestry in Kinyababa Sector, Burera District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Nursery preparation</li> <li>✓ Trees plantation</li> <li>✓ Erosion controllines</li> <li>✓ Maintenance andguarding</li> </ul>	22,304,000	IFDC/CAT ARIST VIA MIG	2010
23	Muhazi lake shores protection in GITI, BUKURE, RWAMIKO sectors, in Gicumbi District by planting agroforestry trees witherosion controls techniques.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Nursery preparation</li> <li>✓ Trees plantation</li> <li>✓ Erosion controllines</li> <li>✓ Maintenance andguarding</li> </ul>	10,226,636	MINIRENA /District GICUMBI	2010

		✓ Demarcation line on 50 m of buffer zone			
24	Production and plantation of 350 000 seedlings, mobilization of local communities for their plantation and protection in Burera District in Butaro sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Nursery preparation</li> <li>✓ Trees plantation</li> <li>✓ Erosion control lines</li> <li>✓ Maintenance and guarding</li> </ul>	75,544,000	IFDC via MIG	2010
25	Lake Kivu buffer zone protection, erosion control and watershed management for in Rubavu and Rutsiro Districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Demarcation line on 50 m of buffer zone</li> <li>✓ Nursery preparation</li> <li>✓ Trees and reeds plantation</li> <li>✓ Erosion control lines</li> <li>✓ Maintenance and guarding</li> </ul>	28,478,000	REMA / UNDP / Ambassade des Pays Bas.	2009
26	Lake Kivu buffer zone protection, erosion control and watershed management for in Rubavu District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Digging of runoff ponds</li> </ul>	4,475,000	REMA / UNDP / Ambassade des Pays Bas.	2010
27	Muhazi Lake buffer zone protection with erosion control techniques by agroforestry trees and reeds plantation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Nursery preparation</li> <li>✓ Trees and reeds plantation</li> <li>✓ Erosion control lines</li> <li>✓ Maintenance and guarding</li> <li>✓ Demarcation line on 50 m of buffer zone</li> </ul>	23,504,249	MINIRENA / District KAYONZA	2009
28	Rehabilitation of Gishwati Nature Forestry for adaptation to climate change in Nyabihu District by planting Kikuyu grass and agroforestry trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Nursery preparation</li> <li>✓ Trees and reeds plantation</li> <li>✓ Erosion control lines</li> <li>✓ Maintenance and guarding</li> <li>✓ Demarcation line</li> </ul>	4,800,000	CC DARE via RENGOF	2009

29	Lake Kivu shores protection and watershed management in KARONGI District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Nursery preparation</li> <li>✓ Trees and reeds plantation</li> <li>✓ Erosion controllines</li> <li>Maintenance and guarding</li> <li>✓ Demarcation line on 50 m of buffer zone</li> </ul>	10,916,380	REMA / UNDP / Ambassade des Pays Bas.	2009
30	Afforestation of KIVUMU – MUREGEYA road on area of 200 Ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Nursery preparation</li> <li>✓ Trees and reeds plantation</li> <li>✓ Maintenance and guarding</li> </ul>	22,000,000	PAFOR / BAD /GOR	2008
31	Giciye river banks protection and watershed management in NYABIHU District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Nursery preparation</li> <li>✓ Trees plantation</li> <li>✓ Erosion controllines</li> <li>✓ Maintenance and guarding</li> <li>✓ Demarcation line on 10 m each side</li> </ul>	20,314,600	REMA / UNDP / Ambassade des Pays Bas.	2008
32	Afforestation of Kabumba – Kabuhanga road on area of 100 Ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Nursery preparation</li> <li>✓ Trees plantation</li> <li>✓ Maintenance and guarding</li> </ul>	12,190,000	PAFOR/BAD /GOR	2007
33	Mobilization and sensitization of local authorities on environment management in RUBAVU and RUTSIRO districts; Nyamyumba and Kivumu sectors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Community work</li> <li>✓ Planting of trees</li> <li>✓ Mobilization of local communities in participation in environment management</li> </ul>	2,200,000	CARE / GLER	2007