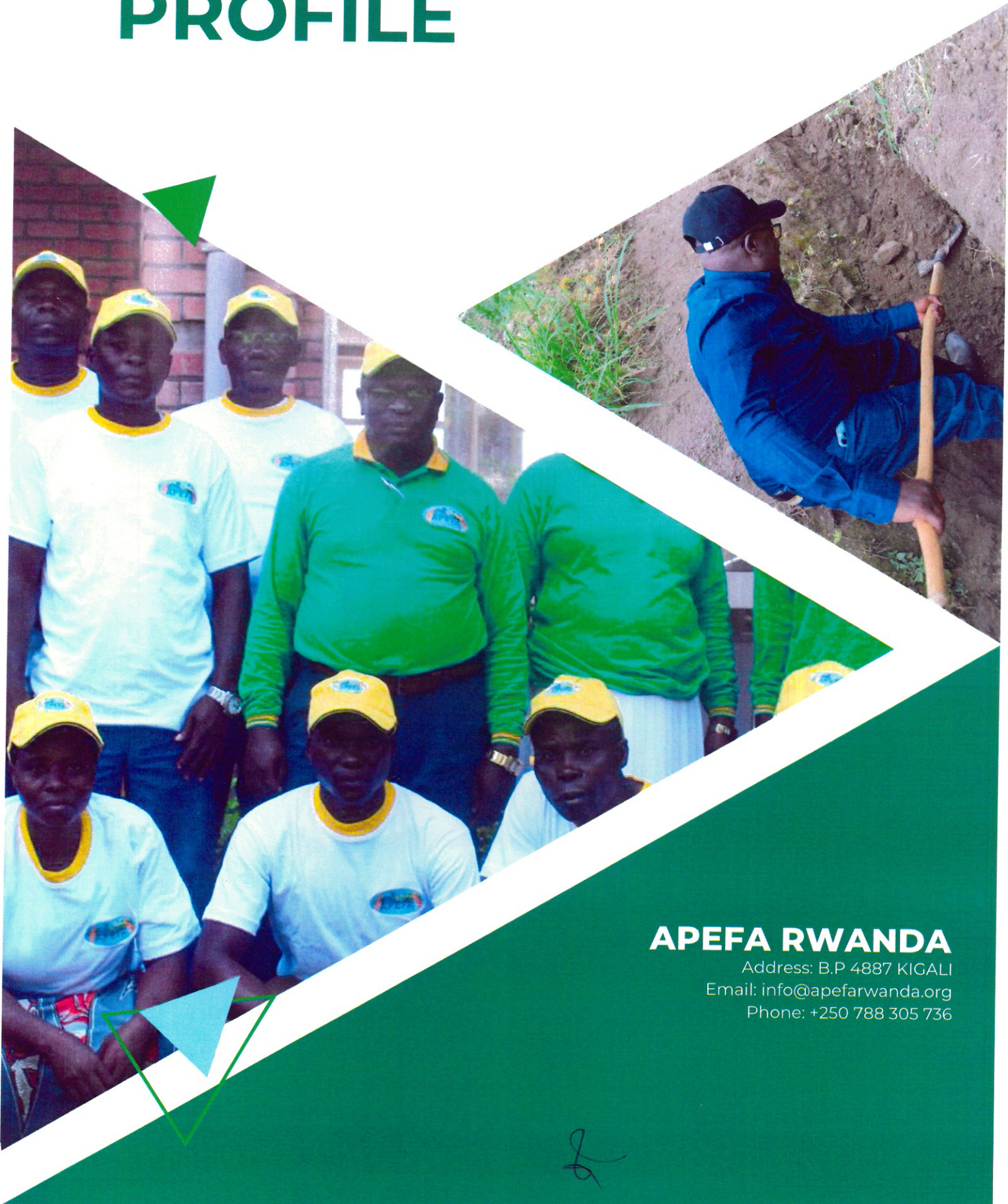


APEFA PROFILE



APEFA RWANDA

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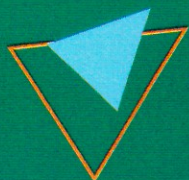


APEFA Rwanda

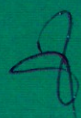
HISTORY OF APEFA RWANDA

In 2001, right here in the heart of East Africa, we, at APEFA Rwanda, embarked on a journey driven by our deep understanding of the immense challenges Rwanda faced due to deforestation, land degradation, and unsustainable farming practices. We believed that the solutions to these challenges wouldn't emerge from top-down decisions but from the very communities we aimed to serve. Grounded in Rwanda's rich indigenous wisdom, our vision was to bridge traditional knowledge with contemporary national policies.

Our innovative approach, the integrated landscape approach, was a testament to our commitment. Rather than viewing agriculture and conservation as competing forces, our strategy sought to harmonize productivity with conservation. By ensuring every stakeholder had a seat at the table, our approach was both inclusive and comprehensive. As the years unfolded, our reach within Rwanda grew exponentially. Our dedicated team, driven by passion and purpose, reached out and assisted over 220,000 smallholder farmers. By introducing them to practices that resonated with their local context, we not only elevated their resilience and incomes but also played a pivotal role in rejuvenating Rwanda's precious ecosystems.



APEFA Rwanda



HISTORY OF APEFA RWANDA



The transition from a budding local NGO to a pivotal implementing partner across Rwanda was a journey filled with learning, collaboration, and growth. The unwavering trust of our rural communities, our synergies with government partners, and the generous support of international donors were the pillars that bolstered our endeavors. Today, as the global community grapples with the ever-present challenges of climate change, we remain committed to our mission more than ever. Building on our legacy and the invaluable lessons from our past, we continue to advocate for and implement community-driven solutions, envisioning a greener, more sustainable future for every Rwandan.



WHY APEFA RWANDA WAS ESTABLISHED.

Amidst the lush green hills and vast landscapes of Rwanda, we witnessed a paradox. The very land that held such promise was also showing signs of distress. Deforestation was rampant, land degradation was becoming a common sight, and traditional farming practices, although rich in heritage, were proving unsustainable in the face of modern challenges. The consequences of these issues were not just environmental; they were deeply social and economic, threatening the very fabric of our communities and the future of our nation.

We, at APEFA Rwanda, recognized that addressing these challenges couldn't be delayed. But more importantly, we understood that the solutions needed to be deeply rooted in Rwanda's context. It wasn't just about introducing modern techniques or importing foreign solutions; it was about blending our rich indigenous knowledge with sustainable practices. It was about empowering our communities to take charge of their destiny, ensuring that they are at the forefront of crafting solutions tailored to their unique needs and circumstances.

Thus, APEFA Rwanda was born. Our establishment wasn't merely a response to the challenges we saw; it was a proactive initiative to shift the narrative, to transform challenges into opportunities, and to ensure that the Rwandan spirit of resilience, innovation, and community thrived for generations to come.

APEFA Rwanda



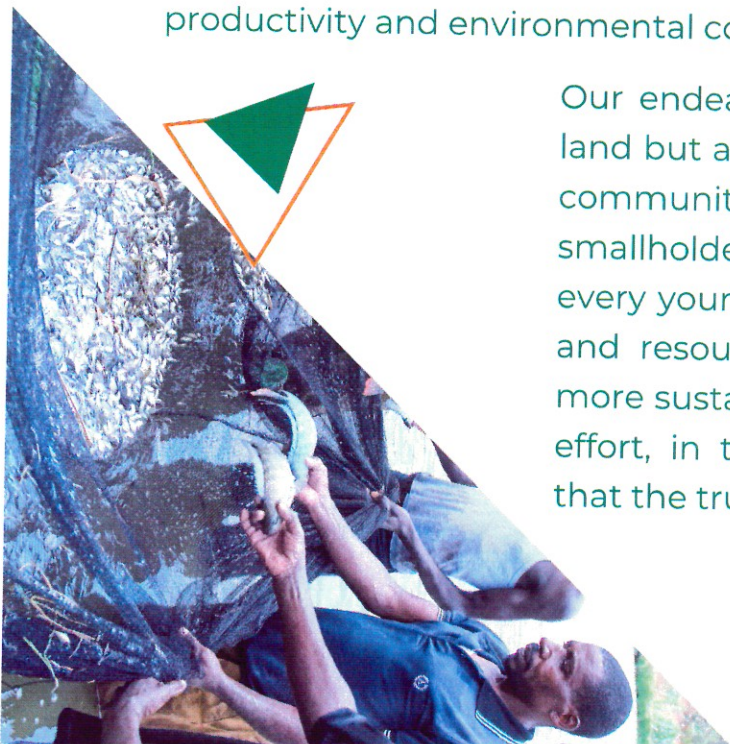
OUR VISION AND MISSION

In the tapestry of Rwanda's journey towards sustainability and community empowerment, we envisioned a vibrant thread that is APEFA Rwanda. Our vision was clear: a Rwanda where the harmony of nature and human endeavor thrived, where every community became a beacon of sustainable practices, and where the legacy of our indigenous wisdom seamlessly merged with the promise of the future.

With this vision as our guiding star, our mission took shape. At APEFA Rwanda, our mission is more than a statement; it's a commitment, a promise we make to every Rwandan. We are dedicated to championing community-driven solutions that address the pressing challenges of deforestation, land degradation, and unsustainable farming and gender inclusiveness with a focus on women and youth. By grounding our initiatives in Rwanda's rich traditions and aligning them with modern-day best practices, we aim to foster a balance between agricultural productivity and environmental conservation.

Our endeavors are not just about restoring the land but also about rejuvenating the spirit of our communities. We believe in empowering every smallholder farmer, every community leader, and every young dreamer with the tools, knowledge, and resources they need to create a brighter, more sustainable future. For it is in this collective effort, in the shared aspirations of our people, that the true essence of APEFA Rwanda lies..

APEFA Rwanda



OUR GOALS



1

Empowerment through Knowledge: We aim to empower communities, particularly smallholder farmers, with knowledge that blends traditional practices with modern techniques. By doing so, we ensure that the age-old wisdom of our ancestors meets the innovative solutions of today, creating a robust framework for sustainable agriculture.

2

Rejuvenating Our Landscapes: Addressing the pressing issues of deforestation and land degradation is at the core of our mission. Our goal is to initiate and support reforestation efforts and introduce sustainable land management practices that not only restore our land but also ensure its vitality for future generations.

3

Promoting Sustainable Farming: Recognizing the challenges posed by unsustainable farming, we are committed to promoting and facilitating the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices. By doing so, we aim to increase farm productivity while ensuring minimal environmental impact.



OUR GOALS



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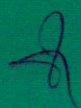
Community-Driven Solutions: At the heart of all our endeavors is the community. We believe in solutions that emerge from the grassroots, tailored to the unique needs and aspirations of each community. Our objective is to foster a sense of ownership and pride among communities, enabling them to be the drivers of change..

5

Strengthening Resilience: In a world grappling with the challenges of climate change, building resilience is crucial. We aim to equip communities with the tools and strategies to withstand climatic adversities, ensuring that their livelihoods remain robust and sustainable.

6

Collaborations and Partnerships: We believe in the power of collaboration. Our objective is to forge strong partnerships with government entities, international donors, and other NGOs. Through these synergies, we aim to amplify our impact, bringing about transformative change on a larger scale.



OUR PROGRAMS

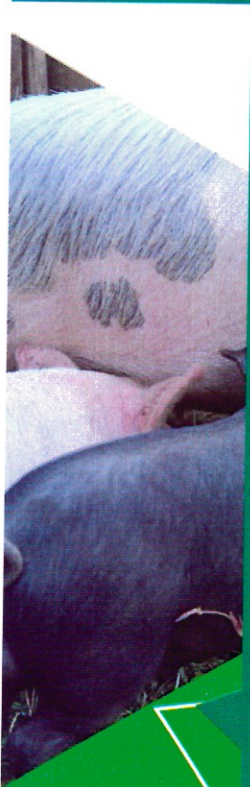
Forest Restoration and Watershed Management Program:

Forests are the lungs of our planet and watersheds its lifeblood. At APEFA Rwanda, we launched the Forest Restoration and Watershed Management Program with a clear vision: to ensure sustainable management of forest resources, protect our watersheds, and promote biomass energy production. Our initiative is harmoniously aligned with Rwanda's national policies that emphasize forest management, poverty alleviation, economic growth, and environmental protection. Through this program, we strive to create a symbiotic relationship between nature and communities, ensuring a sustainable future for all



Livelihood Improvement Program:

For the vibrant rural communities of Rwanda, resilience and food security are paramount. Our Livelihood Improvement Program aims to fortify these pillars. We champion the diversification of income sources, encompassing climate-smart agriculture, livestock rearing, and the growth of off-farm enterprises. By integrating sustainable intensification practices, we empower smallholder farms to thrive without harming our environment. Our initiatives extend beyond farming, connecting communities with markets, financial services, and advanced technologies. Our focus on youth and women empowerment, in collaboration with farmer cooperatives and governmental extension services, amplifies the impact, ensuring that our interventions are not just aligned with national goals but also finely tailored to the distinct needs of Rwanda's diverse districts.



OUR PROGRAMS

Climate Change Adaptation Program

As the global climate shifts, its repercussions are felt deeply by the rural communities of Rwanda. Our Climate Change Adaptation Program is our proactive response to these challenges. We aim to bolster the resilience and adaptive capacities of these communities, enabling them to navigate the challenges of droughts, floods, and erratic rainfall. Through the promotion of diversified, climate-smart livelihoods, we bring sustainable agriculture practices to the heart of these communities. A cornerstone of our program is water security, emphasizing efficient water harvesting, storage, and irrigation. We also prioritize integrating climate risk reduction into broader development strategies, ensuring that our communities are not just prepared for today's challenges but are equipped for the uncertainties of the future.



Sustainable Agriculture Program:

Agriculture is the backbone of Rwanda, and at APEFA Rwanda, we envision a future where it is not just productive but also sustainable. Our Sustainable Agriculture Program is geared towards this vision. We aim to boost agricultural productivity and augment farmer incomes by promoting practices tailored to the unique contexts of our land. Our emphasis is on strengthening climate resilience and ensuring food security for smallholder farmers, advocating for the adoption of climate-smart agricultural techniques. Through our program, we enrich farmer knowledge, connect them with stable markets, and ensure that they become integral parts of profitable value chains. Collaborating with cooperatives, governmental bodies, and the private sector, we're scaling innovations and crafting an environment where sustainable agriculture doesn't just thrive, but flourishes.



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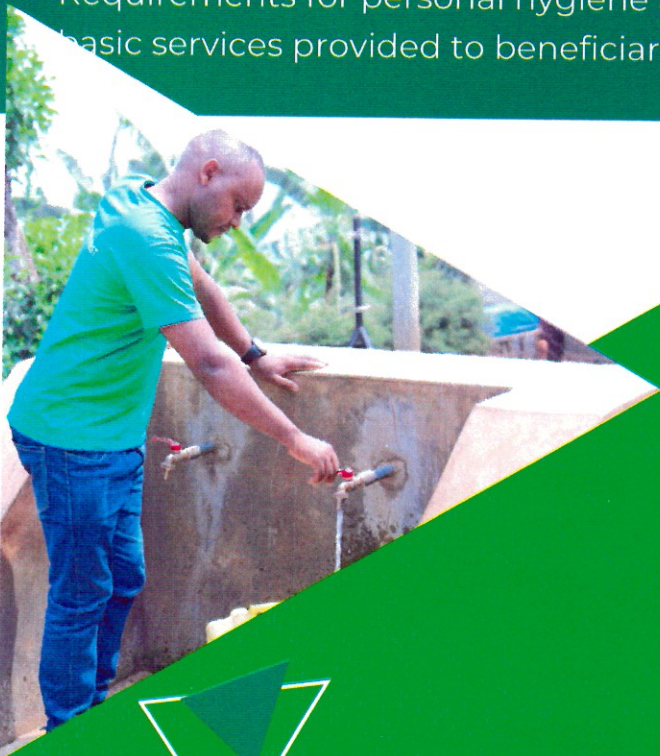
OUR PROGRAMS

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Program

Safe drinking-water, sanitation and hygiene are crucial to human health and well-being. Safe WASH is not only a prerequisite to health, but contributes to livelihoods and helps to create resilient communities living in healthy environments.

The WASH program works on providing clean water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene in order to maintain a healthy life and reduce the transmission of water-borne diseases.

Issues related to environmental sanitation where there are provisions for latrines and to develop and promote the prevention of ill health through awareness-raising. Requirements for personal hygiene and waste removal are some basic services provided to beneficiaries





PARTNER SHIPS

Government Partnerships: Our commitment to aligning with Rwanda's national vision has led to fruitful collaborations with key government entities. We're proud to have Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment. These partnerships underscore our collective commitment to sustainable agriculture, environmental conservation, and overall national development

International Donors and Organizations: Our global partners have been pillars of support, enabling us to scale our initiatives and deepen our impact. We've been fortunate to receive generous funding and collaboration from esteemed organizations like FAO, GEF-SGP, GIZ, IKI Small Grant, UNDP, and REMA. Their belief in our vision and mission has been instrumental in furthering our reach and impact

Local Collaborations: Grounded in the belief that local insights drive impactful solutions, we've fostered strong relationships at the grassroots level. Collaborating with district authorities ensures our initiatives are in harmony with local development goals. Our partnerships with farmer cooperatives, community self-help groups, and youth organizations bring us closer to the communities we serve. Their firsthand knowledge and feedback are invaluable, ensuring our projects are both relevant and effective.

Our Key partners



**RWANDA
GREEN FUND**

INVESTING IN A GREEN AND
CLIMATE RESILIENT RWANDA



SGP The GEF
Small Grants
Programme



4

Our Membership



A

ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

Forest Restoration and Watershed Management

- Planting of 13,280,000 trees.
- Enrichment or protection of 6640 hectares of forest.
- Protection of 18 major watersheds.
- Over 126,000 individuals directly benefitting from our interventions.

Livelihood Improvement Program:

- Directly reached over 126000 beneficiaries.
- Collaborated with 15 farmer cooperatives.
- Facilitated the adoption of new climate-smart agriculture practices by 2500 households.
- Distributed 36,000 fish fingerlings and 250 pigs to diversify cooperative livelihoods.
- Installed 6 solar-powered irrigation systems.
- Constructed 15 new water harvesting dams.
- Supplied 2300 fuel-efficient cookstoves.
- Trained 85 farmers in sustainable land management and integrated farming.
- Converted more than 1200 hectares to climate-resilient agroforestry systems.
- Constructed over 1000

ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

Climate Change Adaptation Program

- Supported 222 households with integrated adaptation packages.
- Enabled over 3,500 farmers to adopt climate-smart agriculture practices.
- Constructed 14 new community dams.
- Rehabilitated 1200 hectares of degraded land through agroforestry.
- Collaborated with 20 farmer cooperatives on adaptation initiatives.
- Developed 7 micro-watershed management plans.
- Achieved a 35% productivity increase in targeted farms.
- Avoided emissions equivalent to 12 600 tonnes of CO2. annually

Sustainable Agriculture Program

- Direct benefits to 5,200 farmers.
- Formation and strengthening of 20 new farmer cooperatives.
- Conversion of over 1200 hectares to climate-smart agroforestry systems.
- Management of 1000 hectares under sustainable land practices.
- Planting of 8,500 fruit and wood trees.
- Distribution of 2300 fuel-efficient cookstoves.
- Establishment of 20 farmer field schools focused on climate smart agriculture
- Establishment of 4 new smallholder irrigation schemes



OUR ACTIVITIES IN CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION



8

OUR ACTIVITIES IN FOREST RESTORATION AND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT



OUR ACTIVITIES IN LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT



OUR ACTIVITIES IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



8

OUR ACTIVITIES IN WATER HYGIENE AND SANITATION





FUTURE PLANS

Strategic Priority 1: Scale up Climate-Smart Agriculture and Livelihood Enhancement Programs

Strategic Priority 2: Expand Integrated Landscape Restoration and Sustainable Forest Management

Strategic Priority 3: Enhance Climate Resilience and Water Security for Vulnerable Communities

Strategic Priority 4: Mainstream Gender Equity and Social Inclusion Across Programs

Strategic Priority 5: Strengthen Partnerships and Mobilize Resources

SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS



@ApefaNgo



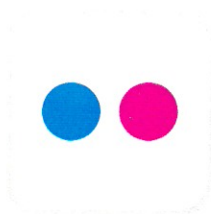
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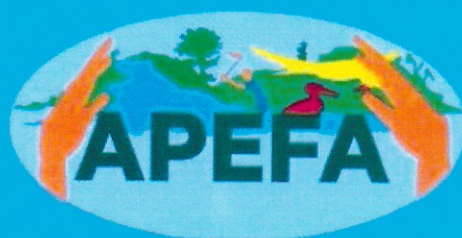
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APEFA RWANDA NGO

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**Action pour la Protection de
l'Environnement et la Promotion des
Filières Agricoles
« APEFA »**



**TOGETHER SAY NO TO
ENVIRONMENT DESTRUCTION
ENVIRONMENT FIRST**

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www.apefarwanda.org      **APEFA RWANDA NGO**

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