

CYAMUDONGO-PROJECT

CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND CLIMATE PROTECTION BY SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY AT CYAMUDONGO FOREST



IMPLEMENTING INSTITUTION

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CYAMUDONGO FOREST

> Cyamudongo is a small patch of montane rain forest (300 ha) in the southwest of Rwanda, which exhibits a considerable number of endangered plant and animal species and remarkable Albertine Rift endemics.

> In 2004, Nyungwe forest and the adjacent Cyamudongo forest became legally protected as a National Park. Although interventions are prohibited; the pressure on the natural forest resources remains high.

> In the past, the Cyamudongo forest was connected to the much larger Nyungwe forest, but has become isolated due to deforestation.

> Agricultural plots are situated at the very edge of the forest. Unsustainable land use results in soil erosion and soil degradation.

> Wood production outside the forest cannot cover the needs of a rapidly growing population.

PROJECT OUTPUTS and ACTIVITIES

> By implementing agroforestry systems in the surroundings of Cyamudongo, the project contributes to its protection due to the reduction of the human pressure on the forest, and re-connects the formerly connected Cyamudongo und Nyungwe forests by creating an agroforestry corridor.

> Farmers are sensitized in a participatory process and receive trainings on the topic of agroforestry. During planting campaigns supported by "planting assistants" trained in the project, farmers convert their agricultural plots into agroforestry systems.

> The conversion of an area which is about 20 times larger than the forest itself serves to preserve the unique biodiversity of the Cyamudongo forest and leads to a significant reduction of anthropogenic disturbances.

> The capacity to protect the biodiversity of Cyamudongo forest is increased through intensive training of national park rangers, staff of the nature conservation agencies and students.

> Within the standing biomass, the project contributes to CO₂ sequestration.

PROJECT PARTNERS

Ministry of Environment (MoE)

Rwanda Water and Forestry Authority (RWFA), Department of Forestry and Nature Conservation

Rwanda Development Board (RDB), Department of Conservation

University of Rwanda (UR)

Integrated Polytechnic Regional Centre (IPRC), Kitabi

PROJECT FUNDING and DURATION

The project is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI). The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) supports the project and the initiative on the basis of a decision of the German Bundestag.

The project is running from September 2016 to August 2021.

Supported by:



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based on a decision of the German Bundestag

- > The project implements activities within Cyamudongo forest (workpackage Biodiversity) as well as in its surroundings (workpackage Agroforestry). The integration of activities and protective measures within and outside the forest represents a holistic approach to nature conservation and climate protection.
- > During organized meeting-events on village level, the local population gets information about the project activities and the possibilities and the process of participation.
- > Implementation of trainings for farmers on the properties and benefits of agroforestry-trees and the protection of soils against erosion and degradation as well as on tree planting and maintenance.
- > Annual production of more than 300,000 tree saplings in the project's tree nurseries including tree species native to Rwanda.
- > Planting of a total of 1,5 million trees together with farmers trained by the project to convert 6,000 ha of agricultural land surrounding the forest into agroforestry systems.
- > Organization and implementation of trainings for park rangers, employees of RWFA and RDB as well as students on the recognition and monitoring of the biodiversity of Cyamudongo forest.
- > Research on the biodiversity of the forest and landscape ecology including PhD- and Master-thesis as well as during internships of students.
- > Regular surveys of plants of the Cyamudongo forest along transects and on plots as well as regular monitoring of anthropogenic disturbances throughout the forest.

PROJECT IMPACTS

The project contributes to the protection of the biodiversity and geo-ecological functions of Cyamudongo forest. It strengthens also the awareness of the population about biodiversity and ecosystem services of the forest and contributes to the capacity building of smallholders. Agroforestry systems and small semi-natural forests prevent a further degradation and erosion of the soils. Trees and shrubs produce additional biomass, that contributes indirectly (fuel wood) and directly (fodder, compost and mulch) to increase agricultural and forestry production. Hence, the project makes a contribution to the food and energy security of the local population. At the same time the project reduces the human pressure on the resources of Cyamudongo forest, and therefore it maintains as an important carbon sink. The project outcomes and lessons-learned will be translated into recommendations for the conservation of mountain rain forests.

