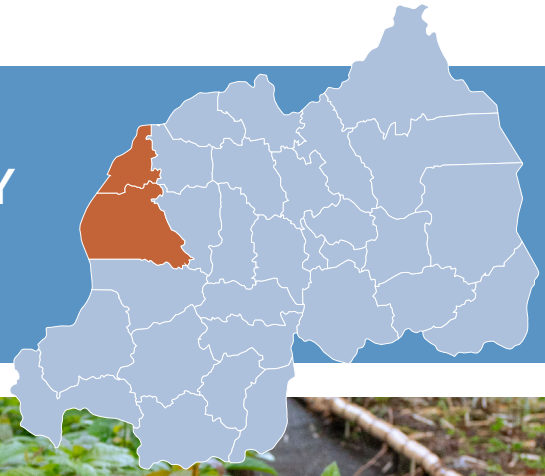
SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY AND EFFICIENT RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR IMPROVED LIVELIHOOD (SFERE)



SECTOR | Agriculture, forestry and fishery

DURATION | 60 months (August 2024-July 2029)

TARGET GROUPS

Private forest operators and producers' groups, landholders, youth and women, SMEs and entrepreneurs active in value chains related to cooking fuel and stoves, timber and non-timber forest products, communities living around degraded forest plantations, charcoal and cooking fuel consumers.

SECTORAL POLICIES AND REFERENCE STRATEGIES

- Rwanda's Vision 2050;
- National Strategy for Transformation;
- Green Growth and Climate Change Resilient Strategy;
- National Forest Policy (2018);
- Forestry Sector Strategic Plan (2018-2024);
- Biomass Energy Strategy (2018-2030).

INSTITUTIONAL ANCHORAGE

- Ministry of Environment (MoE);
- Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC).

BUDGET | EUR 12 million

The SFERE project aims to strengthen forest landscapes resilience and improve community livelihoods in north-western Rwanda. Biomass from forestry dominates Rwanda's energy mix, mainly in the form of inefficient charcoal used for cooking and heating. This causes air pollution and health issues, affecting women the most, and accelerates deforestation due to high energy demand. Despite these challenges, the forestry sector remains critical for environmental sustainability and rural employment.

OBJECTIVES

SFERE aims to build climate resilience by restoring forests, developing climate-resilient value chains, and promoting clean cooking fuels and improved cookstoves. The project targets increased sustainable biomass production, reduced deforestation, and enhanced community incomes.

It engages the private sector and provides SMEs and cooperatives with access to finance for sustainable practices and technologies.

The approach focuses on:

- the restoration and sustainable management of forest plantations;
- the promotion of improved cookstoves and sustainable biomass;
- the enhancement and diversification of incomes through value chain development.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

The project is implemented by LuxDev, with the Global Green Growth Institute, Appui au développement autonome (ADA), Rwanda Forest Authority (RFA), the Rutsiro and Rubavu district offices, the University of Rwanda, the Rwanda Agriculture Animal Resources Development Board, and Energy Private Developers.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

The project is implemented in the Western Province, in the Rutsiro and Rubavu districts. Urban and peri-urban areas across the country are targeted for the promotion of clean cooking fuel and improved cookstoves.

BENEFICIARIES

- rural forest owners organised under private forest management units receive support for restoration and training in sustainable forest management and agroforestry;
- urban and peri-urban households benefit from improved cookstoves, reducing energy costs and improving air quality;
- SMEs and entrepreneurs producing cookstoves and sustainable biomass receive technical and financial support to scale up operations;
- cooperatives and farmer groups in timber, non-timber, and agroforestry value chains benefit from capacity building and market linkages;
- women and youth-led businesses are prioritised to promote inclusion and leadership in forestry and renewable energy sectors;
- public institutions (MoE, MINALOC, RFA, and Rwanda Environment Management Authority) strengthen strategies and align with national policies for sustainability.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND MAIN ACTIONS

- improved forest management and restoration to enhance climate resilience and promote sustainable environmental practices;
- adoption of efficient cookstoves to reduce biomass consumption, ease pressure on forests, improve air quality, and deliver health benefits for households;
- strengthened agroforestry value chains and renewable energy solutions to improve livelihoods, boost incomes, and create jobs, especially for women and youth;
- development of market linkages and infrastructure to support processing and distribution of forest and agroforestry products (timber, biomass, fruits, honey, essential oils, etc.);
- collaboration with government institutions to strengthen the regulatory framework for sustainable forestry and renewable energy practices.

ACHIEVEMENTS (AS OF 2026)

40 cooperatives established

3 MILLION seedlings produced in 40 community nurseries

10 youth and women groups supported in the cookstove and pellets value chain

12 collaboration agreements signed

1 MILLION clonal eucalyptus plantlets planted

22 composting sites established

Entrepreneurship training delivered to **10** clean cooking businesses

Annual tree-planting campaign

LUXDEV CONTACT

Rwanda office | office.rwanda@luxdev.lu | T +250 252 900 760
Golf View Rise Building, KG 563 Street, P.O. Box 210, Kigali, RWANDA

luxdev.lu

LUXEMBOURG AID & DEVELOPMENT

LUXDEV Luxembourg Development Agency