



Eco-Schools Programme in Rwanda

Promoting Quality Education for Sustainable Development



“Young People are the future of our planet. We must equip them with the information, insight and practical skills to understand the importance of Biodiversity- Both intrinsically and for the survival of humanity. Educators have a key role to play in preparing young people for the challenges that lie ahead. There can be no greater legacy than giving young people the tools they need to save our Planet.” *Sir David Attenborough*

1. Background

The right to education is universal, inalienable and enshrined in international law through several conventions. At the same time, young people are the future of our planet.

The international framework of Eco-Schools was developed by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) as a response to the needs identified at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992.

Eco-Schools approach translates the principles of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) into practice by infusing environmental education, action-based learning and student-centred teaching methods into primary and secondary education. Today the programme is running in 68 countries around the world, including Rwanda.

Rwandan education system has recently adopted the Competence-Based Curriculum (CBC), with the aim to develop a knowledge-based and market-competent society in line with sustainable global development. The Eco-Schools Programme in Rwanda will therefore strengthen and support the existing national initiatives and commitments aiming at improving the quality of education and promoting education for sustainable development.

With funding from the Danish Government, the Eco-Schools Programme in Rwanda is being implemented by Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS Network) in partnership with the Danish Outdoor Council (DOC), the Government of Rwanda through different Central and Local Government Institutions, Civil Society Organisations and Faith Based Organisations and other actors involved in the sector of environment and education.



2. PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of the Eco-Schools Programme is to promote active citizenship and improved livelihoods through education for sustainable development by infusing environmental education, action-based learning and student-centred teaching methods into primary and secondary education.

Specific objectives

1. To contribute to the development of pupils' critical thinking and active and socially responsible citizenship
2. To develop entrepreneurial skills that enhance employment and self-employment abilities among young generations
3. To introduce methods for sustainable livelihoods, climate resilience and environmental protection among beneficiary schools and local communities

3. IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS AND APPROACH

Eco-Schools follow a seven-step change process which is a series of carefully engineered measures to help schools maximise the success of their Eco-Schools ambitions and award a Green Flag

The method involves a wide diversity of individuals from the school community, teachers, local leaders and other duty bearers, with students playing a primary role in the process.

The next figure lists the seven steps to GREEN FLAG.



4. THE LINK WITH ARCOS' BEST AND IVAC APPROACH

The Eco-schools Programme uses an approach composed of 4 elements: Investigation, Vision/Goals, Actions and Changes (IVAC) which harmonise and complement well with ARCOS' BEST Approach that is used for all on ground interventions.

These approaches are built on partnership, mindset change and ownership of interventions and privilege raising students' awareness, knowledge and skills in sustainable development principles which will effectively contribute to Eco-Schools Programme implementation.



Through its motto of “collaborative action for nature and people” and building on its experience in promoting Nature-Based Community Enterprises, ARCOS will facilitate the participating schools to adhere to Eco-Schools Programme standards for international graduation as Eco-Schools and obtention of Eco-Schools Green Flag.

5. MAIN COMPONENTS AND TARGET OUTCOMES

Component 1:

Duty bearers and stakeholders have capacities and resources for the provision of quality education for active citizenship and sustainable development

Targets 1:

- 20,000 students are actively involved in the programme
- 35 Eco-schools in 4 districts established
- 175 teachers are engaged in programme and start to recognise more confident and active students in 35 schools

Component 2:

Established Eco-Schools have been showcased and scaled up as catalysts for active citizenship and sustainable development

Targets 2:

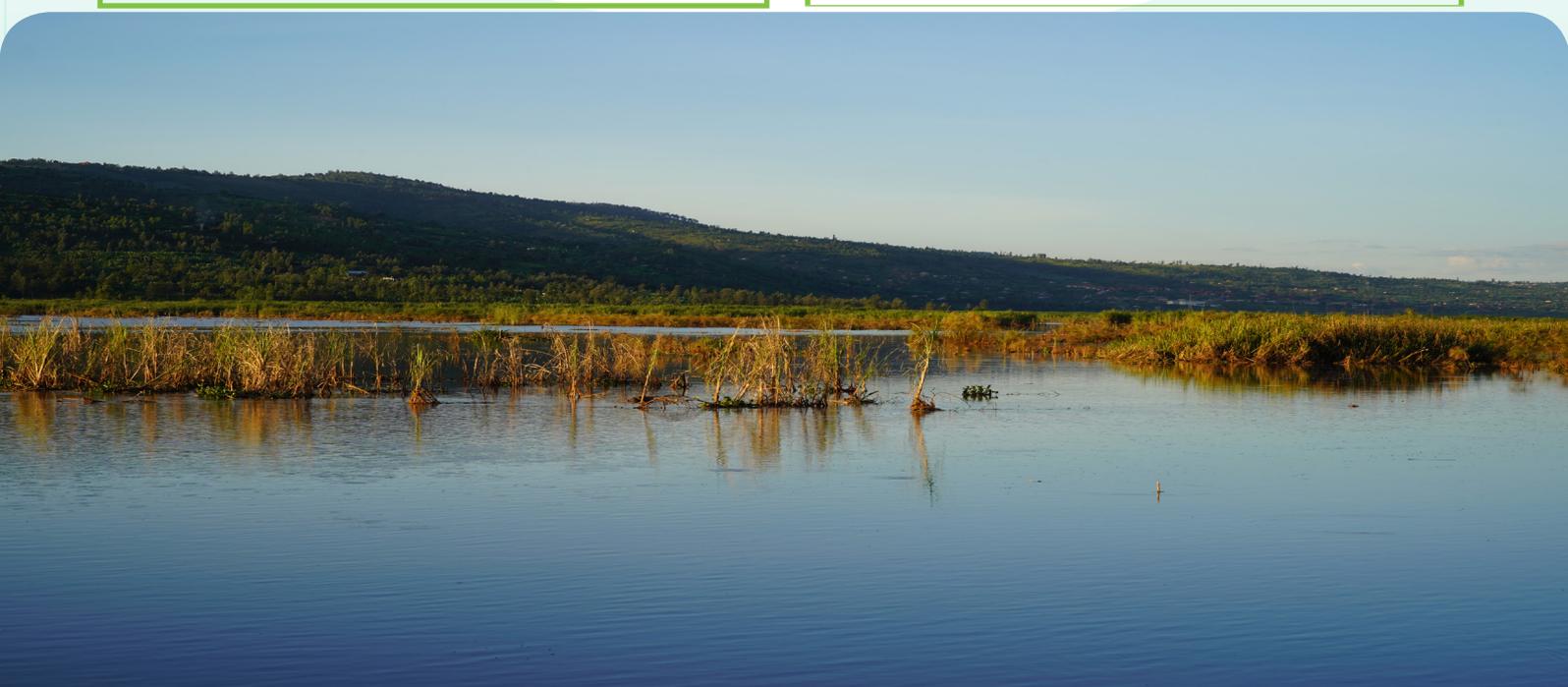
- 17,500 parents & community members have been introduced to the Eco-Schools approach
- 35 Eco-Schools committees have been established and engaged in school governance

Component 3:

Quality education and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is promoted and supported through dialogue, knowledge and experience exchange

Targets 3:

- A National Platform for dialogue with key duty bearers established
- Eco-Schools relevance is acknowledged by key-duty bearers
- Collaboration with Rwanda National Commission for UNESCO(CNRU), Rwanda Education Board (REB), Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) and other relevant partners.



6. PARTNERS IN RWANDA

PROGRAMME
COORDINATION

ARCOS Network

IMPLEMENTING
PARTNERS

REB, REMA,
UNESCO, Districts,
Learners, Teachers,
Local Community

OTHER
PARTNERS

Civil Society and Faith
Based Organisations,
Private Sector and other
actors interested in
Education for Sustainable
Development



*“For a Better Planet Today
and Tommorrow”*

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