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NETWORK

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# LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATION

MuLaKiLa Carbon Project, Rwanda

ECOSYSTEM  
REGENERATION

Entreprise



Certifiée

Nous soutenons la



FONDS DE RESTAURATION  
DES ECOSYSTEMES  
2021-2030

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# 01

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

15'



# WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

## Why this Stakeholder's consultation?

### Objectives

- To **inform stakeholders** about the MuLaKiLa project beyond the Preliminary Stakeholder Consultations held in 2023.
- To **gather input and feedback** to improve project design and implementation.
- To ensure **transparency and build trust** among stakeholders.
- To **identify and mitigate** potential conflicts or adverse impacts.
- To **foster a sense of ownership** and ensure long-term sustainability of the project.
- To share **means of grievance and next steps**.



# WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

## Why this Stakeholder's consultation?



## Principles

- **Stakeholders** have a voice in decisions that may affect them.
- **Stakeholders' inputs** are **necessary** and will **influence** the decisions to be made during the MuLaKiLa project.
- The **interests** of the various stakeholders are appreciated, and their feedbacks are valued for potential project modifications.
- Stakeholders **are invited** and information is **shared to define** how they can participate in the project.
- A **grievance mechanism** has been established and will be explained in this presentation.

# WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

## Key actors

### ARCOS – Project Implementer



The **Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS)** is a regional conservation organization that aims at enhancing biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of natural resources in the Albertine Rift region, Africa Great Lakes region and African Mountains, through the promotion of collaborative conservation action for nature and people.

### Reforest'Action – Project Developer



**Reforest'Action** is a B Corp-certified social enterprise whose mission is to preserve and restore forests in France and around the world while raising public awareness. Reforest'Action enables individuals and companies to take concrete action to support the environment, the protection of biodiversity, and sustainable development.

### Investor – Investor

The project investor will use the carbon credits of the MuLaKiLa project to reach its voluntary carbon strategy.



The MuLaKiLa project was launched on  
March 23, 2023

# RWANDA GOVERNMENT

Carbone Finance

Proiet Implementation

Investor

Project developer

Project Implementer

Local Communities



Invest

Carbon credit  
- Contribution  
to Net Zero  
objective



- Sourcing
- Development
- Certification
- Monitoring

**Project activities**  
Financed by the project

1. Terraces building
2. Agroforestry
3. Training
4. Livelihoods

Improve



Ensure trees'  
sustainability



Incentives to the  
farmers



Improve





# 02 CARBON CERTIFICATION

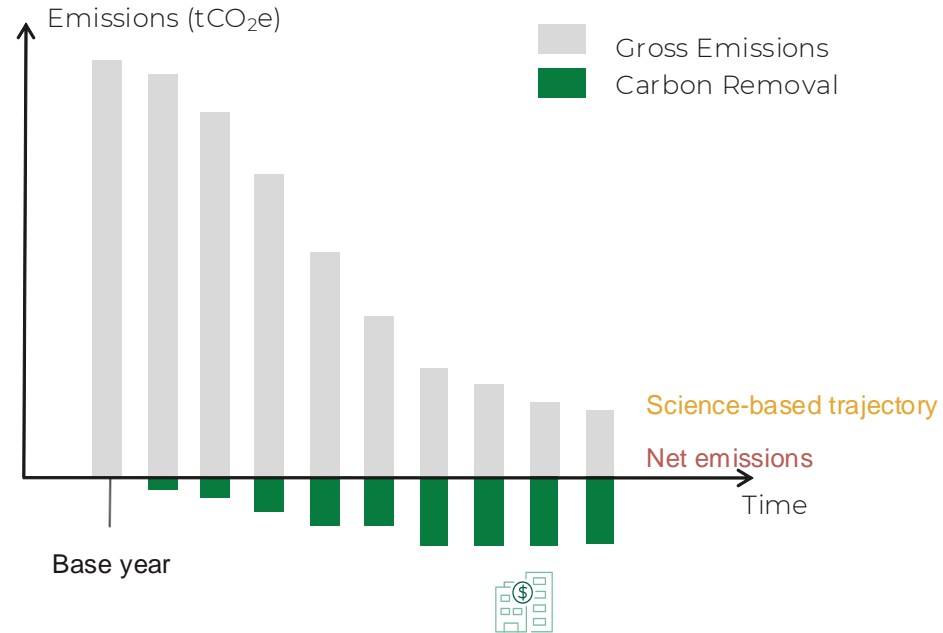


# CARBON CERTIFICATION

## The Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM)

### Why is carbon sequestration necessary?

- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are caused by human activities and contribute to **Climate Change**.
- The **Paris Agreement** calls for carbon neutrality to be achieved between **2050-2100**.
  - **Carbon neutrality** = all greenhouse gas emissions must be net-zero through:
    - Emission reduction at a rate defined by science
    - Removal (offset) by carbon sequestration



# CARBON CERTIFICATION

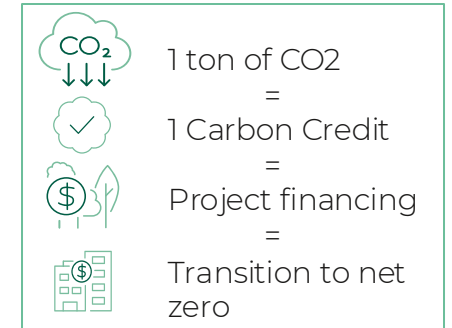
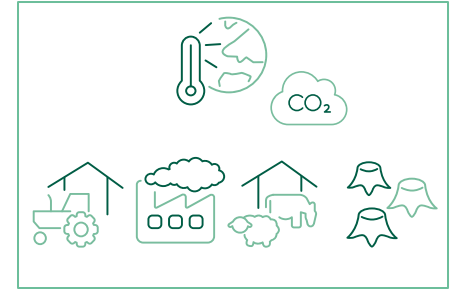
## The Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM)

### What is the role of the Voluntary Carbon Market?

- **Financing tools** for enhancement of carbon sequestration and the transition towards a regenerative economy remain crucial.
- The **Voluntary Carbon Market** is a market-based tool for **financing** carbon emission reduction and offset **project development** and facilitating the **transition of businesses** to net-zero emission.
- **1 ton of carbon** sequestered through project development = generation of **1 carbon credit**.
- Generation and marketing of carbon credits allows the financing of projects.

### What is the link with Carbon Certification?

- High quality carbon credits must be certified by accredited certification standards.



# CARBON CERTIFICATION

## Certification Standards and Validation and Verification Bodies (VVBs)

### Certification Standards

Certification standards are organizations which set the rules to follow and assess compliance, in order to provide quality assurance on all credits issued and ensure their credibility. Examples:



### Validation and Verification Bodies (VVBs)

Validation and Verification Bodies (VVBs) are third party auditors accredited by standards and appointed by project developers to conduct evaluation compliance of a project with standard and methodology rules. Examples:



# CARBON CERTIFICATION

## Principles of certification

### Project Technology and Methodology

Methodologies and guidelines are developed for each technology of carbon project.

For the MuLaKiLa project, an Afforestation and Reforestation (A/R) methodology is used to quantify carbon sequestration by trees and shrubs.

### Characteristics of certified carbon projects

- Long term project (at least 30 years)
- Generate local benefits (social, biodiversity, economic, carbon, climate)
- Benefits should be:
  - Permanent
  - Additional
  - Real
  - Measurable (1 unit = 1 tCO<sub>2</sub>e)
  - Independently verified



# CARBON CERTIFICATION

## Certification Standard for the MuLaKiLa Project

### Gold Standard – Certification Standard

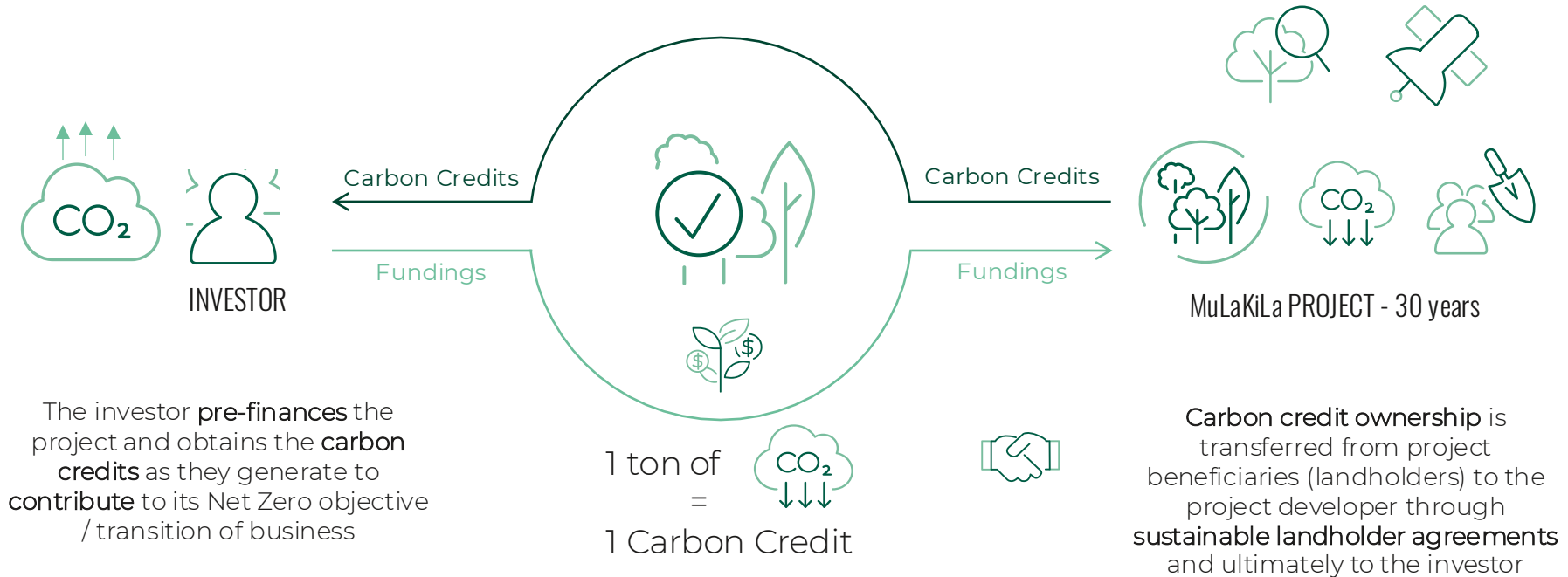
**Gold Standard (GS)** is an international standard and certification organisation based in Switzerland, set up in 2003 by the WWF and other of environmental NGOs.

- GS aims to ensure the **highest levels of environmental integrity and sustainable development** in carbon offset projects.
- GS certifies projects that not only reduce carbon emissions but also contribute to various **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
- GS employs **rigorous criteria and verification** processes to validate the environmental and social impacts of these projects, thereby providing **transparency and credibility** to the carbon credits issued under its certification.



# CARBON CERTIFICATION

## Carbon Framework for the MuLaKiLa Project



# 03

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

20'



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# PROJECT OVERVIEW

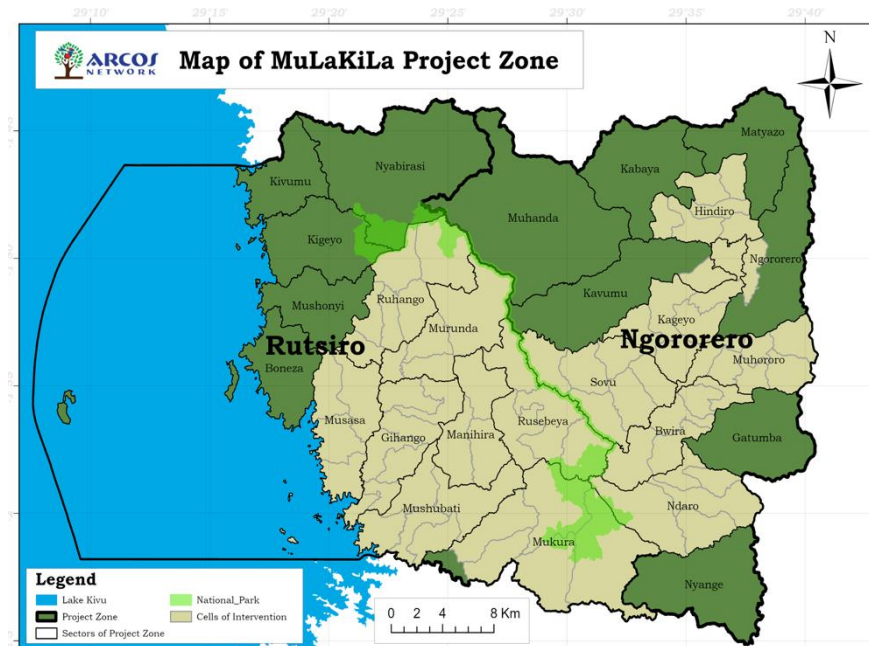
## Project zone

Project zone: Gishwati-Mukura Forest and Lake Kivu Catchment Landscape (MuLaKiLa)

Rutsiro and Ngororero Districts

Main target: 14 sectors, 73 cells, and 460 villages

Lifecycle: 30 years (2023–2054)



Cells of intervention as of today (in beige) could be extended in the future.



# PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project rationale

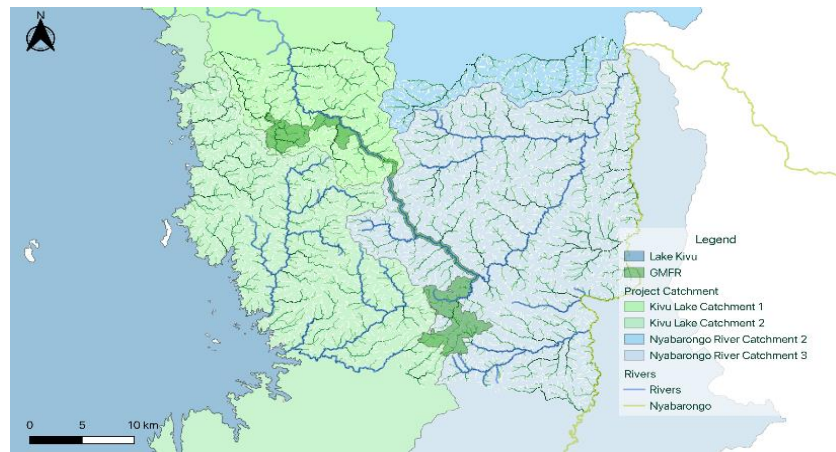
Human pressure on landscape and  
Climate Change



# PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project rationale

Deforestation and fragmented patches of forests



# PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project rationale

Erosion, landslides and disasters



**Rwanda floods and landslides kill more than 130 people**

3 May



Climate change



RWANDA BROADCASTING AGENCY

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project rationale

Degradation of natural resources

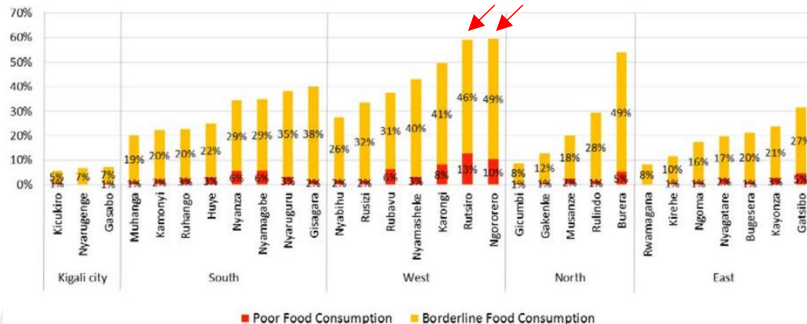


# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## Project rationale

Poverty in the project zone, Rutsiro and Ngororero districts

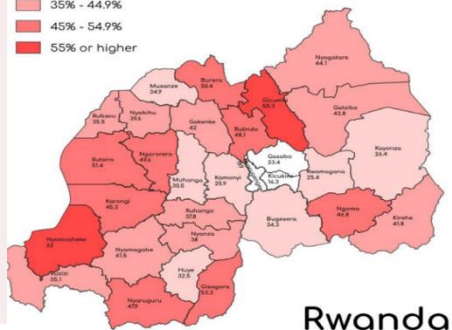
Figure 48: Percentage of households with an inadequate food consumption in 2021 by district



60% of HH have inadequate food consumption

>45% of poor HouseHolds

Percentage of households poor or extremely poor



Rwanda

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

MuLaKiLa project activities

1. 21,000 ha of farmland restored
2. Lives of 40,000 households (160,000 farmers) improved



# PROJECT OVERVIEW

MuLaKiLa project activities

## 1. 21,000 ha of farmland restored

### a. Tree planting

- 6 million trees
- 50% indigenous, 30% fruit, and 20% exotic species
- Planting models:
  - Agroforestry
  - Woodlots



# PROJECT OVERVIEW

MuLaKiLa project activities

## 1. 21,000 ha of farmland restored

### b. Tree production -> Nurseries

- 69 tree nurseries
  - 30 managed by communities





# PROJECT OVERVIEW

MuLaKiLa project activities

## 1. 21,000 ha of farmland restored

### c. Building terraces

- 2,450 ha of radical terraces
  - Manure, lime, elephant grass, shrubs, seeds
- 8,032 ha of progressive terraces
  - Elephant grass, shrubs, seeds



# PROJECT OVERVIEW

MuLaKiLa project activities

2. Lives of 40,000 households (160,000 farmers) improved

→ Resilient community group through **ARCO's Best Approach**

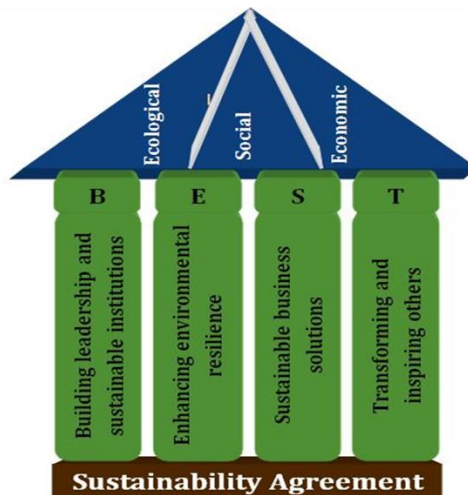
- Building leadership and sustainable institutions
- Enhancing environmental resilience
- Promoting sustainable business solutions
- Transforming and inspiring others



# PROJECT OVERVIEW

MuLaKiLa project activities

## ARCO'S BEST APPROCH



### **B. BUILDING LEADERSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE INSTITUTIONS**

- Group governance & sound leadership, Group visioning & strategic planning
- Annual planning, reporting & communication, Inclusive action & decision-making

5,147 + HH; 178 FNAs; 3,617 engaged casual workers

# PROJECT DESCRIPTION

MuLaKiLa project activities

ARCO'S BEST APPROACH (cont.)

## Farmer Engagement Process

1. Self introduction & Engagement of Local Leaders (Sector, Cell & Village)

- Sector, Cell & Village

2. Community Sensitization

- Village-level awareness campaigns (Mu nteko z'abaturage)
- Farmer-to-Farmer Awareness

3. Farmer & Land Registration

- Guidelines & eligibility criteria depends on project

4. Farmers' capacity building

- Trainings that cover IALM practices and BEST Approach

5. Farmers' mentorship

- Accompanying Farmers through the mindset transformation/landscape restoration process/ assisting in Strategic planning (Putting BEST into practice)

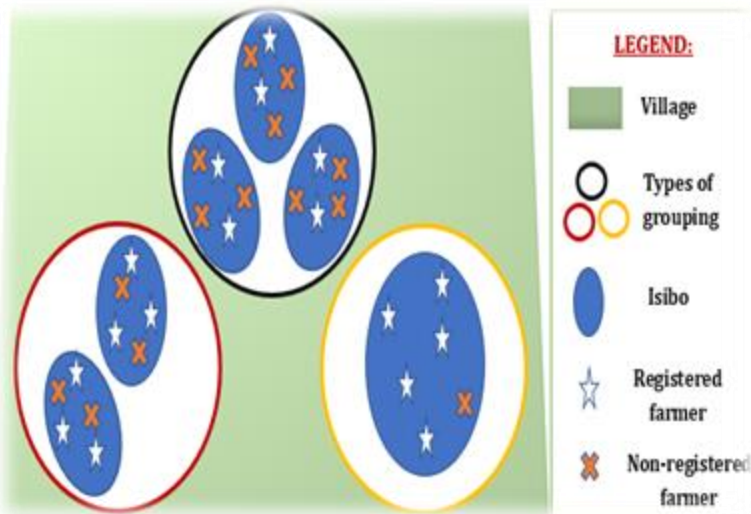
# PROJECT DESCRIPTION

MuLaKiLa project activities

ARCO'S BEST APPROACH (cont.)

## Farmer Engagement Process (cont.)

Farmers' grouping (Friends of Nature Associations (FNAs) formation)



- FNA composition: "20 - 35" farmers-HH
- Committed their land
- Agreed to sign sustainability agreement

- CG Graduation

HH-FNAs-VSLAs-NBCEs- Cooperative-Companies



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# PROJECT DESCRIPTION

## MuLaKiLa project activities

### ARCO'S BEST APPROACH (cont.)

#### **E. ENHANCING ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE**

- Landscape approach, land, water & energy use efficiency
- Sustainable waste management, climate resilience & environmental safeguard, soil, water & biodiversity conservation

40 eco-agriculture model sites & 40 Community managed Tree Nurseries



IALM practices, workshops and training:

- Train farmers on IALM practices to shift agricultural practices toward sustainability.
  - Reduce chemical fertiliser use;
  - Reduce tillage extent and depth to zero-tillage;
  - Retain 80% of crop residue on croplands;
  - Promote cover crops
- Develop other training programs related to horticulture, nursery maintenance, agroforestry techniques, sustainable timber harvesting, and biodiversity assessment.

# PROJECT DESCRIPTION

## MuLaKiLa project activities

### S. PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

- Business planning, sustainable value chains development, market linkage & partnership engagement
- Home-grown solutions for saving, credit & access to financial services (NBCF – Nature-Based Community funds = Umusave fund) and incentives

73 NBCF, 840,000 EUROS injection, at least 600 micro-projects to be funded/year



## ARCO'S BEST APPROACH (cont.)

### Direct incentive

1. Umusave (Loan)
2. In-kind support agricultural inputs- tools- seeds/ seedlings, - fertilizers (manure, seeds for cover crops, ipm entries, etc.)- livestock-improved cook stoves

### Indirect incentive

1. Capacity building
2. Value chains development production, value addition & market linkage



# PROJECT DESCRIPTION

MuLaKiLa project activities

ARCO'S BEST APPROACH (cont.)



## T: TRANSFORMING AND INSPIRING OTHERS

- Village visioning & joint land use planning, experimental plots, collaborative action & sustaining achieved results
- Inclusive development & decision-making, household green practices model sites.



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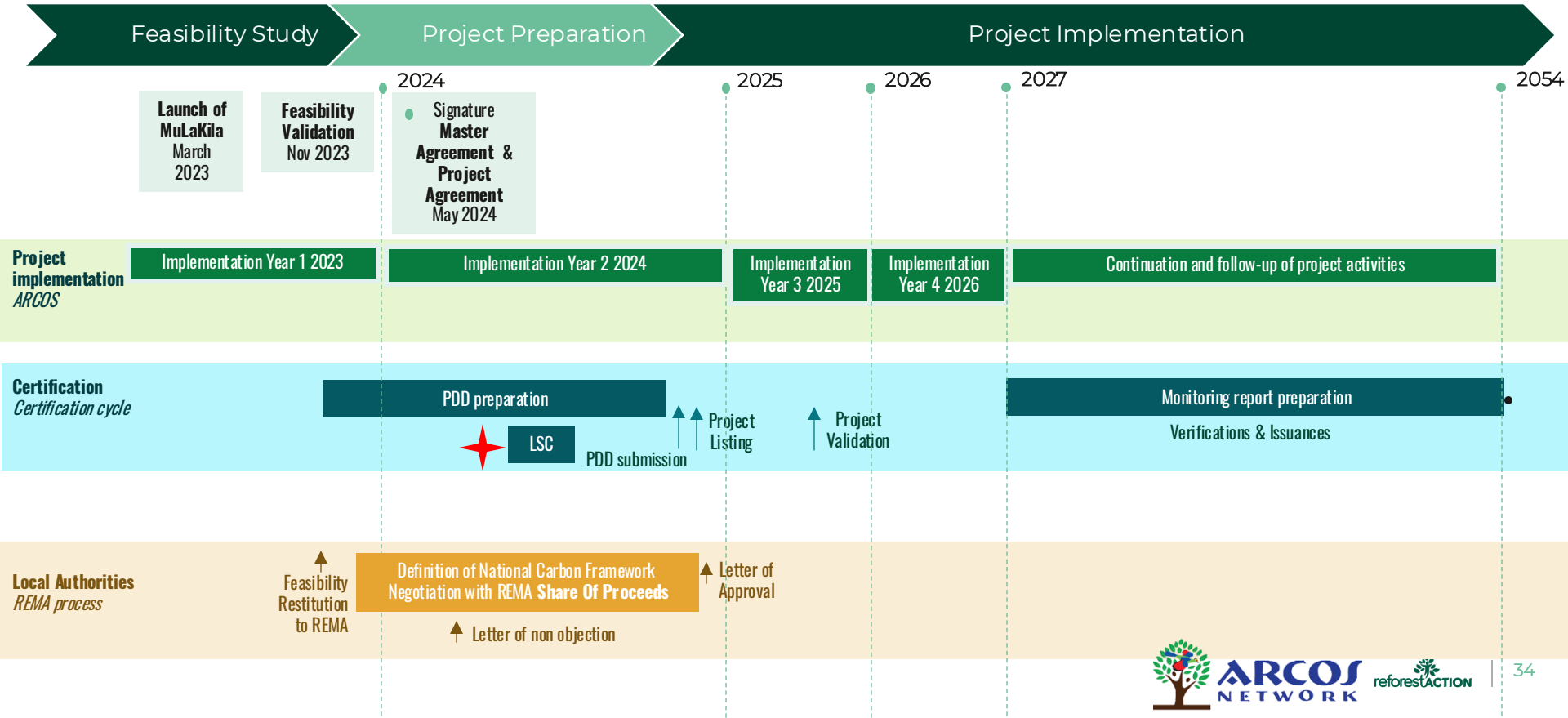
# PROJECT DESCRIPTION

## MuLaKiLa project activities



# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## MuLaKiLa project planning





04

# POLICY ALIGNMENT

# POLICY ALIGNMENT

## National policies and strategies

### Rwanda National Carbon Market Framework

Agroforestry and afforestation activities are not listed as “*non eligible activities*” within the Rwanda National Carbon Market Framework meaning that **the MuLaKiLa project is compliant with the negative list** and all the requirements of the Rwanda Government Regulations.

### Rwanda’s Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)

The MuLaKiLa project promotes the development of agroforestry systems and afforestation of degraded lands and **aligns with Rwanda’s Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC).**

It is directly linked to **Land and Forestry sector** and contributes to interventions 10 (agroforestry) and 11 (afforestation).

### REMA Strategic Plan 2022-2026

The MuLaKiLa project aligns with the following REMA priorities:

**Priority 1:** Ecosystem Restoration/Rehabilitation and Biodiversity Conservation

**Priority 2:** Climate Change Resilience

**Priority 4:** Environmental Education, Awareness and Mainstreaming

An updated Project Idea Note (PIN) has been shared with REMA on March 15, 2024. In return a letter of non-objection has been shared by REMA.

# POLICY ALIGNMENT

Link with country SDG's

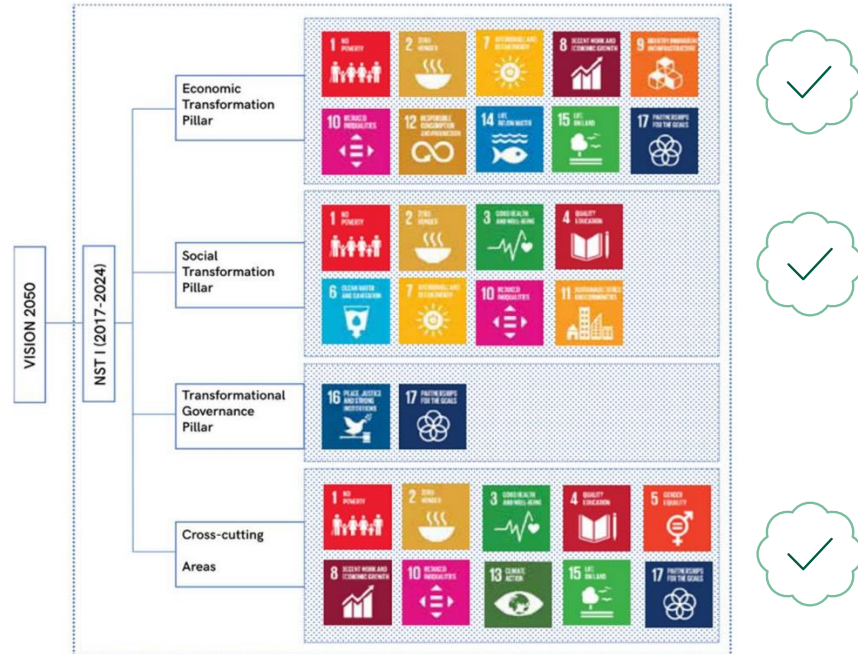
## Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)

Under the United Nations Convention To Combat Desertification (UNCCD) targets at national scale with an ambition to **reach LDN for the entire country** to align with the 2030 Agenda For Sustainable Development (SDG target 15.3).



## Voluntary National Review (2023)

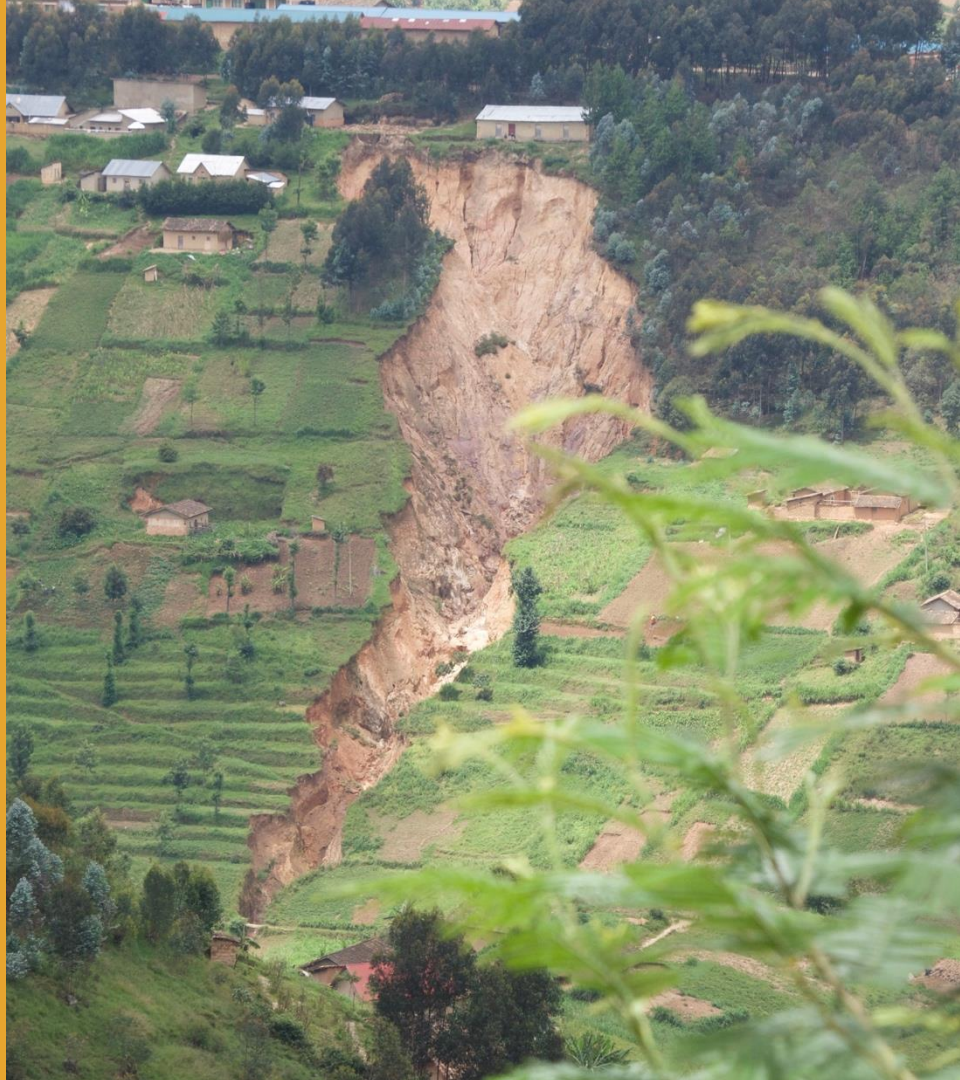
Vision 2050 and the National Strategy for Transformation



# 05

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACTS + DISCUSSION

20'



# ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACTS

## Expected positive impacts

### Expected impacts

Through native trees planting, anti-erosion measures, IALM capacity building, value chain support and community engagement, the Mulakila project expects the following positive impacts while contributing to the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** :

#### Climate



- Carbon sequestration
- Reduction of GHG emissions

#### Community



- Income generation
- Increased agricultural yields
- Increased food security
- Community resilience
- Improved livelihoods

#### Biodiversity



- Conservation of species
- Diversification of tree species
- Diversification of habitats



#### DISCUSSION:

- Do you identify any further **positive** impacts that the MuLaKiLa project could promote?
- Do you identify any **negative** impacts of the MuLaKiLa project?

# ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACTS

## Risk identification and mitigation

### Potential risks and mitigation measures

Risk category	Potential risks	Mitigation measures
<b>Environmental and biodiversity conservation</b>	Project activities occur around the Mukura-Gishwati National park, and a buffer zone should be established to support the protection of natural forests/corridors.	Work with the Rwanda Forest Authority in order to enhance the biodiversity in the buffer zone of the National Park.
<b>Natural disasters</b>	Extreme weather events: landslides, flooding, pest and disease	Building of terraces, agroforestry systems and IALM practices to enhance resilience
<b>Communities' rights</b>	Failure to identifying and involving all community members (inclusive the landless and the vulnerable) in the project development.	Run local stakeholders consultations, trainings, co-construction of the project design with the communities. Follow the best practices of ARCOS and the guidelines of the Gold Standard.
<b>Project Management</b>	The lack of dedicated human resources in the field could hamper the success of the project.	A set of dedicated CCEOs and CCEAs has been deployed in the field.

#### DISCUSSION:

- Do you think that the identified risks are **relevant** for the success of the MuLaKila project?
- Do you identify any further **risks** that the MuLaKiLa project should consider and tackle?







06

# STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

# STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

## Discussion

### Leads for discussion

#### Community needs

- What are the most pressing challenges that you identify in the project zone?
- What challenges do the farmers face with the current agricultural practices?

#### Awareness, Understanding, Interest

- Are you aware of the MuLaKila project and its activities?
- Are there any unclear aspects?
- How do you feel about this project being implemented in the proposed zone?

#### Concerns and Expectations

- What concerns do you have about the project?
- What benefits do you expect from the project?



# STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

## Discussion

### Leads for discussion

#### Community Involvement and Participation

- How would you like to be involved in the project?
- What type of training or support would you need to participate effectively in the project?
- What do you think about the FNAs, NBCFs and incentive strategies set by the project?

#### Long-term Sustainability

- What do you think is necessary for the project to be successful in the long term?
- How can we ensure that the benefits of the project continue after it ends?
- What type of incentive mechanism do you suggest?



# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

## Grievance mechanism

**Goal of grievance mechanism:** establish clear mechanisms for stakeholders to provide ongoing feedback and suggestions, to address concerns and resolve conflicts promptly and fairly.

*How can the I address comments or suggestions about the MuLaKiLa project?*

1. Grievance book at each project village

2. Telephone access  
ARCOS:

+250 794376791

3. Internet and email  
access:

<https://arcosnetwork.org/>

[mulakilagrievance@arcosnetwork.org](mailto:mulakilagrievance@arcosnetwork.org)

[help@goldstandard.org](mailto:help@goldstandard.org)

4. Nominated  
Independent Mediator  
NIM (optional through  
FNA leaders)

Stakeholders shall be updated on how their input has been incorporated into the project. The grievance mechanism is meant for the whole project lifecycle.

# QA

Questions, comments and suggestions



QUESTIONS



COMMENTS



SUGGESTIONS

# 07

## NEXT STEPS

10'



# NEXT STEPS

## Feedback round as of Gold Standard guidelines



### FOLLOW UP ACTIONS TOWARDS FEEDBACK ROUND

All meeting details shall be **documented** by the MuLaKiLa project team, including attendance, key issues discussed, and outcomes. Detailed **reports** summarizing stakeholder feedback and how it has been addressed shall also be prepared following the Gold Standard Certification requirements.

- Launch feedback round (**30 days**) to invite all stakeholders to provide feedback, including details on procedure and details for submitting further comments
- Share updated **project documentation** via publicly accessible means – ARCOS website / GS website / CCEOs
- Share how stakeholder feedback has been integrated into the project design
- **LSC report** shall be submitted to Gold Standard at the time of first submission (preliminary review). The report shall be available in the Gold Standard website.

# NEXT STEPS

## Questionnaire



QUESTIONNAIRE

We kindly ask you to please give  
your feedback through the  
provided questionnaire

Thank you!



# NEXT STEPS

Closing remarks



CLOSING REMARKS



# CONTACT

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