



Centre International de Formation et de Recherche pour l'Environnement et le Développement Durable

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Annual Report, 2023-2024

Bujumbura, June 2025

List of abbreviations and acronyms

ADIP	Association for Peasant Dignity
API	Burundian Agency for the Promotion of Investments
AWF	African Wildlife Foundation
BANCOBU	Commercial Bank of Burundi
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research
CIFREDD	International Centre for Training and Research for Environment and Sustainable Development
COH	Community of hope
COMIFAC	Central African Forest Commission
COP	Conference of the Parties
CEO	Director General
DGEREA	General Directorate for the Environment, Water Resources and Sanitation
EFI	Integrated Family Farms
ENABEL	Belgian Agency for International Cooperation
FAO	Food and Agriculture organization
EFSD+	European Fund for Sustainable Development

FOMI	Organo-Mineral Fertilizers
FRMI	Forest Resources Management Engineering
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
ICRAF	International Center for Research in Agroforestry
NFI	National Forest Inventory
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NERF	Forest Reference Emission Level
OBPE	Burundian Office for Environmental Protection
NGO	Non-governmental organization
UN	United Nations
PACECOR	Promotion of conservation and development actions in and around the KIBIRA and RUSIZI National Parks
PES	Payment for Environmental Services
CBFP	Congo Basin Forest Partnership
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
MOP	Meeting of the Parties to the Partnership
REDD+	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
WIFRIC	Consortium Win, Rise Shine House, CIFREDD and Fondation Lance d'Afrique
WIN	World initiative for nature

A word from the CEO of CIFREDD: The years 2023-2024 mark a turning point in the CIFREDD office

Dear partners, collaborators, members and employees of CIFREDD,

It is with great pleasure that I present CIFREDD's annual report for the year 2023-2024. This publication reflects not only our performance in environmental matters but also our ability to share our knowledge and experience with others through training and research.

The year 2023-2024 was a year of full evolution for CIFREDD. CIFREDD has been very successful despite some logistical challenges. Despite these problems, CIFREDD has demonstrated exceptional resilience and has been able to overcome all the obstacles encountered with the immeasurable help of our partners.

The year 2023-2024 coincided with Burundi's chairmanship of COMIFAC (Central African Forest Commission). Thus, there have been several national and international missions and conferences in which CIFREDD has participated. These are the active participation in the second international conference of ministers on Transhumance, peace and security held in Yaoundé, Cameroon from 8-14 July 2023,

The Co-organization of the conference on business opportunities in Burundi, under the theme "Unlocking Investment Potential: Emerging Opportunities in Burundi,

Participation in the 20th Meeting of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) and the organization of the side event:

Innovative Initiatives on Climate Finance and Sustainable Development in Burundi on June 5, 2024 during the holding of this 20th meeting of the CBFP.

“During this period, CIFREDD was able to establish and strengthen several technical, financial and institutional relationships and partnerships and benefit from some collaborations and support. We can note the good collaboration with COMIFAC and the PFBC. It is worth recalling the support of ADIP for the organization of the Kinshasa side event and of the BMZ for the organization of the joint side events with CIFOR-ICRAF in Yaoundé and the signing of the Collaboration Agreement within the framework of the WIFRIC consortium (WIN, Rise and Shine House, CIFREDD and Lance d’Afrique Foundation).”

Among our flagship achievements, we can note the support of certain organizations and institutions, in particular the Ministry of Environment of Burundi while he chairs COMIFAC and the FRMi office in charge of making the forest inventory and developing the Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) of Burundi.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to all our employees whose dedication is our strength, and to our partners whose support is invaluable and unwavering.

- CIFREDD will ensure the strengthening of partnerships with the private sector (agricultural, forestry, banking, industrial and mining) and other innovative initiatives in Burundi and the sub-region;
- Training on access to climate finance and landscape restoration and payments for environmental and ecosystem services;
- Need to prioritize the promotion of the digitalization of the sustainable management of natural resources;
- Providing special support for the management of protected areas
- Strengthening our territorial anchoring and creating shared value with all our stakeholders

Our ambition remains intact: "to train, to have research and to work for sustainable development."

In the future, CIFREDD intends to accentuate research and training on the Circular Economy.

This annual report is not just a balance sheet: it is the story of a forward-looking company, where every challenge is a step towards excellence. Together, let's continue to build a better world with fewer greenhouse gas emissions.

I invite you to discover our journey in detail in the following pages. Together, let's write the next chapter of success.

With confidence and determination

Cléto NDIKUMAGENGE



President and CEO of CIFREDD.

Reminder of the Fundamentals of CIFREDD

CIFREDD: A structure in full evolution

Launched on August 18, 2014, the International Center for Training and Research for the Environment and Sustainable Development (CIFREDD) enjoys the statutes of the Burundian Investment Promotion Agency (API) and is governed by Law No. 1/09 of May 30, 2011 on the Code of Private and Public Participation Companies.

Its objective is to train and strengthen the capacities of actors working in the environment, the economy and sustainable development and to support them in the management of projects. Its areas of intervention include training, research and development, project management, studies and consultancies in sustainable development, the organization of national and international technical conferences and the representation of sub-regional initiatives.

Vision de CIFREDD : What is CIFREDD ?

CIFREDD (International Center for Training and Research for Environment and Sustainable Development) is an organization based in Bujumbura, Burundi, active in more than 50 African countries. It is dedicated to training, applied research and support in the management of projects related to the environment and sustainable development.

Why CIFREDD?

CIFREDD is the International Training and Research Center for Environment and Sustainable Development. African countries in general and those of Central and East Africa in particular are facing various environmental problems. At the same time, these countries lack qualified technical personnel. That's not the only problem. On the other hand, the inadequacy of up-to-date studies and projects aimed at solving the problems faced by the populations constitutes a real handicap to the socio-economic development of the populations. This training and research center aims to fill these gaps. The objective of CIFREDD is to provide training, applied research on the environment and support in the management of projects related to sustainable management. Its objective is therefore to train and strengthen the capacities of actors working in the environment, the economy and sustainable development and to support them in the management of projects.

Main missions and activities

CIFREDD works in several key areas:

- **Training and capacity building:** It offers training for actors working in the environment, economy and sustainable development sectors
- **Applied research:** It conducts studies on topics such as sustainable management of natural resources, deforestation, land degradation and climate change
- **Project management:** He supports the formulation and implementation of projects for local and international non-governmental organizations.
- **Organization of events:** It organizes national, regional and international conferences, seminars and workshops to raise awareness and share good environmental practices.

Notable Achievements

Among its achievements, CIFREDD has participated in:

- Evaluation and updating of the environmental policy of the Community of Central African States (ECAC)
- Animation of actors involved in the restoration of forest landscapes in Burundi
- Analysis of forest products trade in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).
- Organizing side events at the 20th Meeting of the Parties of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (MOP20), focusing on topics such as environmental crime and climate finance.

Partnerships and network

CIFREDD collaborates with national and international partners such as the African Union, IUCN, COMIFAC and the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP). He is also involved in initiatives to strengthen the capacities of African countries in the face of environmental and climate challenges

Since its launch and in accordance with its business plan, CIFREDD has already carried out several activities at the national and international levels, most of which are published on its website: www.cifredd.com.

This report covers the main achievements for the period from January 2023 to December 2024 as well as the outlook for the period 2025 and 2026.

Year 2023



Active participation in the Second International Conference of Ministers on Transhumance, Peace and Security held in Yaoundé, Cameroon.



Held in Yaoundé, Cameroon from July 8-14, 2023, the second international conference of ministers followed the first Conference held in N'Djamena, Chad in 2019, during which a so-called N'Djamena Declaration was adopted. Its objective was to contribute to seeking political-strategic and diplomatic consensus on the transhumance nexus, protected areas and natural resources, development, peace and security, in order to ensure adequate management of protected areas in order to preserve ecosystem services.

Thus, it has contributed to capitalizing on the implementation of the N'Djamena Declaration and to taking emergency measures to address the challenges of transhumance between the Sahel and North Equatorial Africa in connection with cross-border AML (Anti-Poaching), the degradation of natural resources, gold panning/mining, eco-security, peace, eco-development, local traditions and cultures.

On the sidelines of the Conference, CIFREDD organized a parallel session entitled: Landscape Restoration, Livelihoods and Biodiversity Management in the Congo Basin.

The presentations followed by the exchanges focused on the following topics: Reminder on the AFR100 initiative and the objectives of the session by the Moderator, presentation of synergies between resilience projects and landscape restoration projects in the South Kivu province of the DRC by FAO; Initiative on Electric Mobility and the Promotion of Zero-Emission Transport in Burundi by Enviroprotect, UNHCR-ICRAF-CIFOR Cross-Border Initiative on the Restoration of Landscapes Predominantly of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons by CIFOR-ICRAF. A roadmap for the implementation of the recommendations has been validated.

On the sidelines of the Conference, a working session was organized with the Coordinator of the COMIFAC Support Project (regional) with a focus on the support of CIFREDD and the University of Burundi to COMIFAC. Another session was organized with the SEA of COMIFAC with a particular focus on supporting

COMIFAC in mobilizing funding for the implementation of the convergence plan during COP28. COMIFAC's support for transboundary management between Rwanda and Burundi and between the DRC and Burundi in the management of the Rusizi reserve was also discussed.



CIFREDD's internal management: Better planning for greater impact

Organized in December 2023 for CIFREDD members and consultants, the main objective of the internal planning meeting was to contribute to a better knowledge of CIFREDD and the opportunities for current and potential actions and partnerships. This has strengthened communication and exchanges within the team on the objectives and activities of CIFREDD; to inform the participants about the partnerships under negotiation and to make proposals on how to organize themselves to better meet the expectations of the partners. Thus, the participants were better informed about the objectives and activities of CIFREDD, took better ownership of the partnership initiatives under negotiation with CIFREDD and the priorities of CIFREDD for the period 2024-2025 and made concrete proposals on how we could organize ourselves to better meet the expectations of partners.



Preparing for an online side event at COP28 in Dubai

CIFREDD will organize an online side event on the sidelines of COP 28 in Dubai on electric mobility, greenhouse effects in Burundi and the Opportunities offered by Carbon Credits in Burundi. The objectives of the session included sharing the benefits of electric mobility in Burundi, promoting other GHG reduction initiatives and other innovative financing mechanisms such as carbon credits and identifying other sources of financing to support electric mobility. Focusing on electric mobility and other initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Burundi, the CIFREDD presentation first defined what is a carbon credit or a unit equivalent to one tone of CO₂ avoided or sequestered.


For example, a tree planting project that will sequester 10,000 tons of CO₂ could result in the allocation of 10,000 carbon credits.

The 5 Criteria for the allocation of Carbon Credits are (i) additionally: The project could not have been implemented without the financing of the sale of carbon credits, (ii) Measurability: it is possible to calculate the amount of CO₂ avoided or sequestered on the basis of a recognized methodology, (iii)


Verifiability: the effective avoidance or sequestration of tones of CO₂ sold as carbon credits must be verifiable and accounted for (iv) Permanence: the avoidance or sequestration of carbon must take place over time (generally at least 7 years) and (v) the uniqueness of the registration of carbon credits relating to a project on a single register is key to avoid double accounting of carbon credits.

A distinction is made between avoidance projects (such as renewable energy development projects, more efficient use of energy or substitution supporting new less carbon-intensive processes) and sequestration projects (direct reduction of the amount of CO₂ present in the air through the preservation and enhancement of "carbon sinks") such as natural sequestration projects (through conservation and reforestation) and carbon sequestration in the oceans and soils.

Unfortunately, and despite the support of the COMIFAC SE, online communications from Bujumbura could not be through.



Nous n'avons pas
de planète B.
Protégeons-la



Les financements
climatiques sont
extrêmement
urgents pour les
pays du SUD.

Year 2024



The image features the text "Year 2024" in a stylized, outlined font with a pink-to-purple gradient. Below the text are three solid black arrows pointing to the right, each positioned under a portion of the text: the first arrow is under "Year", the second under "20", and the third under "24".

Signature of the collaboration agreement within the framework of the WIFRIC Consortium (WIN, Rise and Shine House, CIFREDD and Fondation Lance d'Afrique).



NOS ADRESSES

Rise and Shine : www.riseandshinehouse.com

Win : www.win-organization.org

Cifredd : www.cifred.com

Foundation : www.foundationlancedafriqueburundi.org

The four organizations pledged to combine their efforts and take advantage of their comparative advantages to promote activities aimed at socio-economic, cultural, environmental and climate development through the implementation of projects and programs aimed at the development of their sectors of intervention at the national and international levels.

The four priority areas of WIFRIC

► **AXIS 1: RESOURCE MOBILIZATION,**

Organize visibility events, set up networks between stakeholders from the same sectors, develop and submit bankable and innovative projects/programs.

► **AXIS 2: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE,**

Organize and/or participate in international conferences on environment and climate, Coordinate and/or monitor environmental protection and climate resilience actions.

► **AXIS 3: ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING,**

Influence decision-makers/leaders to act on all levers of wealth creation, organize lobbying actions.

► **AXIS 4: CAPACITY BUILDING ON KEY THEMES**

Organize capacity-building/training workshops, facilitate experience sharing for best practices, and widely disseminate national tools for content ownership.

Co-organization of the conference on business opportunities in Burundi, under the theme "Unlocking Investment Potential: Emerging Opportunities in Burundi."



On April 19, 2024, a conference on business opportunities in Burundi was held in Brussels, under the theme "Unlocking investment potential: emerging opportunities in Burundi."

The conference was structured around two sessions: The round table on climate finance and the potential investors session.

The round table was moderated by Mr. Franck DEPAIFYE and co-moderated by Dr. Cléto NDIKUMAGENGE, Director General of the International Center for Training and Research for the Environment and Sustainable Development (CIFREDD).

The overall objective was to help promote environmental diplomacy, sustainable management of natural resources and resilience to climate change.

- Specifically, it aimed to promote innovative initiatives underway or in prospect in Burundi, identify partnership and/or financing opportunities with the various Technical and Financial Partners (TFPs), and
- Formulate an action plan for the follow-up and implementation of the recommendations of the Brussels meeting.

The main expected results included:

- Diplomats and other technical and financial partners are taking ownership of environmental priorities on climate change in Burundi,
- The partners' flagship initiatives are better known by the European Technical Partners (TFPs),
- A follow-up plan for the recommendations of the Brussels meeting is developed and shared with stakeholders.



The main presentations focused on the following themes

- Landscape Restoration and Restoration of Natural Soils and their Biodiversity for Green Growth in Burundi's Rural Communes by PHILIPPE de ROISSART, Expert in Agriculture, Water Resources and Environment Project Manager of the PACECOR Project, ENABEL Burundi,
- The Key Results and Effects of the Kibira Project: Sanctuary of Peace and Nature Conservation presented by Mr. Cyprien NDIKUMANA: Coordinator of COH communities Hope;
- Soil restoration and fertilization by Dr. Syldie BIZIMANA, Director of Research and Innovation (FOMI);
- Climate finance: NDC financing opportunities in Burundi by Philippe Chabot European Commission's NDC Facility;
- Introduction to environmental finance by Dr Jean Marie Noiraud, JMN Consultant and CIPN International consulting firms
- UN Carbon Markets: UN carbon markets are essential tools in the fight against climate change, aimed at reducing the build-up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere
- How to Share the Risk, Maximize the Impact. EFSD+ guarantees by Ms Amélia Gangsted, European Commission. Let's clarify the European Sustainable Development Fund (EFSD+)
- BANCOBU's commitment to access climate finance by Mrs. Sylvie KADAWA of BANCOBU.

At the end of the round table, the following highlights were highlighted:

- Burundi's commitment to promote innovative initiatives in the field of environment and climate change as part of the implementation of the vision "Burundi, emerging country in 2040 and developed country in 2060;
- The determination of PACECOR in promoting conservation and development actions in and around the Kibira and Rusizi National Parks to face the multiple challenges and in mobilizing additional funding to complement the actions underway in and outside the current area of intervention;
- The multiple actions carried out by *Communities Hope* around the Kibira Park to promote peace, culture and the

strengthening of public-private partnerships to protect the Kibira Park and guarantee the livelihoods of the riverside communities;

- The innovations brought by the FOMI Company in the promotion of fertilizers combining mineral nutrients and organic substances to improve soil fertility and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and its ambitions to expand in the sub-region;
- The multiple NDC funding opportunities in Burundi presented by the European Commission's NDC Facility and the proposed strategies (including the development of a climate finance roadmap) to access the various NDC financings.



Participation in the 20th Meeting of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) and Conclusions of the Side Event: Innovative Initiatives on Climate Finance and Sustainable Development in Burundi organized by CIFREDD on June 5, 2024 during the holding of this 20th CBFP meeting.



From 03 to 05 June 2024, CIFREDD participated in the 20th CBFP Meeting organized in Kinshasa, DRC. During this conference, CIFREDD organized **on June 5, 2024** a side event on Innovative Initiatives on Climate Finance and Sustainable Development in Burundi in collaboration with the members of the WFRIC consortium: World initiative for Nature (WIN); Rise and Shine and the Fondation Lance d'Afrique.

The objectives were to:

- Inform CBFP partners on innovative initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Burundi;
- Explore financing opportunities in the context of climate finance to support sustainable development initiatives in Burundi;
- Mobilizing financing to strengthen climate change-related disaster risk management in Burundi;
- Explore partnership opportunities between CBFP partners and consortium members.

Moderated by Dr. Cleto NDIKUMAGENGE, the event aimed at the following expected results:

- ✓ CBFP partners are better informed,
- ✓ Funding opportunities for climate initiatives for Burundi are explored,
- ✓ Alignment of the Consortium's priorities with those of COMIFAC and CBFP is ensured.



The activities were structured around the following interventions:

- The speech of the Ambassador of Burundi in Kinshasa, the Ambassador of Agriculture.
His speech served as a word of welcome and recalled Burundi's ambitious vision of being the emerging country in 2040 and a developed country in 2060;
- The harmonized roadmap of the Chairperson-in-Office of COMIFAC and the Franco-Gabonese Facilitation of the CBFP presented by a member of the COMIFAC national coordination, Janvier MURENGERANTWARI, highlighted the priorities for the period 2024-2025. They are focused on high-level dialogue, mobilizing funding at the international level, advocacy;
- The presentation of the axes of the action plan and the priorities for the period 2024-2025 of the WIFRIC consortium highlighted the four priorities by Marius NGENDAKURIYO;
- The promotion of integrated family farms (EFI) was carried out by the Association for Peasant Dignity (ADIP). It defined the components of EFI (Core Crops, Food, Speculative, Utilitarian and Perennial), its different stages of development (stage zero, beginner, primary, secondary);
- The presentation on Bancobu's commitment to environmental initiatives made by the Director of the Human and Finance Division highlighted the Bank's ambition to master the challenges of climate change

Public suggestions on areas for improvement or on the implementation of the recommendations were given. These included the promotion of EFI and PES by ECCAS and the increased commitment of COMIFAC and other partners to work closely with BANCOBU.

The intervention of the Minister of Environment and current Chairman of COMIFAC of Burundi as a conclusion made it possible to summarize and encouraged all stakeholders to do everything possible for the effective implementation of the various recommendations, strengthen collaboration with the Embassies of Burundi and other partners involved in climate finance and partnerships with organizations involved in the promotion of PES.



Partnerships in support of COMIFAC and bilateral actions with the Mission in Germany strengthened



From September 22 to 29, 2024, the Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock and Current Chairman of the COMIFAC Commission led a Burundian delegation to Germany. The WIFRIC Consortium supported the German Embassy in preparing and carrying out this complex mission.

The main points of articulation of this mission were, among others:

- ❖ **Participation in the Africa Forum in Berlin** Organized by AWF (Africa Wildlife Foundation)

The first meeting took place on September 24 at the Africa Forum in Berlin, where Minister Dodiko delivered the opening speech. He shared his thoughts on Burundi's environmental and agricultural progress, highlighting the current challenges and the steps to be taken to implement the country's action plan. As a prelude to the forum, the members of the delegation participated in technical and strategic discussions. Discussions focused on biodiversity, climate finance and the role of international cooperation in the fight against climate change.

❖ **Participation in the 40th anniversary of Burundi-Baden-Württemberg cooperation On September 25.**

Minister DODIKO delivered a keynote speech as a representative of the Burundian government at the celebration of the 40th anniversary of cooperation between Burundi and Baden-Württemberg, in Germany. The event was an opportunity to reflect on decades of fruitful collaboration and explore ways to further strengthen bilateral cooperation.

❖ **Meetings on sustainable agriculture and COMIFAC cooperation On 26 September**

The delegation co-chaired a meeting with German officials, led by Simon Kopper, focused on the Sustainable Agriculture for Forest Ecosystems (SAFE) programme. The discussion focused on the coffee production sector in Burundi, its environmental impact and its integration into the new European regulation aimed at eliminating deforestation-related products from the European market. Another workshop strengthened COMIFAC-Germany cooperation, with both sides discussing progress in preserving Central African forests and their sustainable future.

❖ **Visit to the German Parliament**

On September 27, 2024, Minister Ir. Prosper Dodiko was welcomed at the German Parliament to highlight COMIFAC's central role in global environmental initiatives. Discussions focused on strategies to combat deforestation

in Central Africa, with a focus on transitioning to renewable energy sources like solar and electric power to reduce reliance on charcoal.

❖ **Burundi-Germany Business Round Table**

Co-organized by the Ambassador of Burundi to Germany and the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Berlin, under the theme " *Co-constructing innovative environmental and climate change initiatives with strategic partners for inclusive and green economic growth in the context of COMIFAC* ». It was introduced by Dr. Florence NISABWE and moderated by Dr. Cleto NDIKUMAGENGE. On this occasion, after the presentation, Minister Dodiko, key German and Burundian business leaders highlighted the investment potential in Burundi's green economy, sustainable tourism and natural resource sectors. The round table was an opportunity to promote exchanges and partnerships with the various partners to support the initiatives underway in Burundi, including the specific initiatives concerning the city of Bujumbura.

National inventory for the Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) finalized



The NERF was performed by FRM. To carry out this service, FRMI relied on its proven experience in mapping and remote sensing, forest inventory, biomass assessment and the establishment of national NERFs. CIFREDD was chosen by FRMI to coordinate logistical support related to the realization of forest inventories within the framework of the NERF. In accordance with the contract signed between FRMI, CIFREDD was to provide the inventory staff including 4 team leaders, 4 botanists and 4 forestry technicians for a period of three months, pay the fees and their travel expenses while ensuring their travel in the field and the operation of their cars.

A workshop to present the results of the NERF and validate all the deliverables was organized on November 27, 2024. It was moderated by Dr. Cleto NDIKUMAGENGE, CEO of CIFREDD.

The overall objective of this workshop is to exchange with stakeholders on the results of the mission entrusted to FRMI and on the reference emission level of Burundi's forests and to collect their observations.



The specific objectives of the workshop are as follows:

- ✓ To inform stakeholders about the content of the Burundi NERF and its challenges;
- ✓ To Present the methodology implemented for the national forest inventory and the development of the NERF of Burundi and
- ✓ To collect feedback from stakeholders on the results of the work carried out

Representatives of the various organizations and institutions took part: OBPE Delegation of the European Union UNDP Dukingire Ibidukikije Programme; Directorate General for the Environment, Water Resources and Sanitation (DGEREA); National REDD+ Committee; International Centre for Training and Research for Environment and Sustainable Development (CIFREDD) university researchers; members of the teams that collected NFI data in the field and resource persons.

The presentation of the deliverable on the national forest inventory report, the presentation of the deliverable on the FREN development report. The presentation of each deliverable was followed by a Q&A session that allowed participants to hear their concerns and contributions from participants.

NERF WORKSHOP

Moderation and Facilitation of the NERF Workshop

As part of the Technical Assistance of the Dukungire Ibidukikije Programme, funded by the European Union, FRMI has been chosen to develop Burundi's Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL).

This is why a workshop was held in Bujumbura, on November 27, 2024, in the King's Conference Centre Hotel, to present the results of the NERF and all the deliverables. This workshop was organized by the Burundian Office for Environmental Protection "OBPE" in collaboration with FRMI.

The overall objective of this workshop is to exchange with stakeholders on the results of the mission entrusted to FRMI and on the reference emission level of Burundi's forests and to collect their observations.

The resource persons:

- ✓ The representatives of the OBPE;
- ✓ Representatives of the Delegation of the European Union;
- ✓ The UNDP representative;
- ✓ The representative of the Dukungire Ibidukikije Programme;
- ✓ Representatives of the General Directorate for the Environment, Water Resources and Sanitation (DGEREA);

- ✓ Representatives of the Geographical Institute of Burundi
- ✓ Representatives of the National REDD+ Committee;
- ✓ Representatives of the International Training and Research Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development (CIFREDD);
- ✓ University researchers;
- ✓ The members of the teams who collected the NFI data in the field;



The design of the NERF must comply with the requirements provided by the UNFCCC through decisions taken at the various Conferences of the Parties (COPs), including the IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories 2006 (and the 2019 revision). To carry out this service, FRMI relied on its proven experience in mapping and remote sensing, forest inventory, biomass assessment and the establishment of national NERFs.



The specific objectives of the workshop are to:

- Inform stakeholders about the content of the Burundi NERF and its challenges;
- Present the methodology implemented for the national forest inventory and the development of the NERF of Burundi and
- Gather feedback from stakeholders on the results of the work performed.
- The presentation of the deliverable on the national forest inventory report;
- The presentation of the deliverable on the NERF development report.

The presentation of each deliverable was followed by a question-and-answer session that allowed participants to gather their concerns and contributions.

Key Lessons Learned



- ❖ **Pour To better exploit the results of the National Forest Inventories for the NERF:** A very good experience that has made it possible to achieve palpable results despite the difficulties related in particular to the availability of fuel. Need to strengthen the logistical means and capacities of actors, including representatives of civil society and NGOs;
- ❖ **Need to strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships** in support of agents related to climate finance;
- ❖ Importance and relevance of strengthening the capacities of the various institutions, including Banks, in the mobilization of climate finance: strengthen capacities in the mobilization of finance;
- ❖ **The experiences of working with embassies** to mobilize international actors in order to access various funding deserve to be capitalized. A project to support the participation of Embassies in various events and strategic initiatives such as the COPs would be explored;
- ❖ CIFREDD's membership of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership for better participation in the various events should be explored

Recommendations and outlook for 2025 and 2026



Actions

- ❖ CIFREDD will continue and strengthen the partnership with FRMI
- ❖ It will ensure the strengthening of partnerships with the private sector (agricultural, forestry, banking, industrial and mining) and other innovative initiatives in Burundi and the sub-region;
- ❖ Training on access to climate finance and landscape restoration and payments for environmental and ecosystem services;
- ❖ Need to prioritize the promotion of the digitalization of the sustainable management of natural resources;
- ❖ Providing special support for the management of protected areas

Strengthened technical, financial and institutional relationships and partnerships



1



Photo de famille lors de la clôture de l'Inventaire Forestier au Burundi, Bujumbura 2024

**CIFREDD,
The Research for the
sustainable development**