



Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard

RWANDA RIPARIAN RESTORATION PROJECT



Prepared by: EcoPlanet Bamboo Group, LLC

Project Title	Rwanda Riparian Restoration Project
Version	1.0
Date of Issue	15 May 2025
Project Location	Rwanda
Project Proponent(s)	EcoPlanet Bamboo Group, LLC Camille Rebelo: crebelo@ecoplanetbamboo.co
Assessor Contact	KBS Certification Services Limited/ director@kbscertification.com
Project Lifetime	01 October 2022 –30 September 2062; 40-year lifetime
Monitoring Period of this Report	01 October 2022 – 30 April 2025
History of SD VISTA Status	First attempt
Other Certification Programs	Verified Carbon Standard – Project ID 3072
Expected Future Assessment Schedule	07 July 2025 validation and verification audit

CONTENTS

- 1 Summary of SDG Contributions..... 1**

- 2 Project Design..... 12**
 - 2.1 Project Objectives, Context and Long-term Viability 12
 - 2.2 Stakeholder Engagement..... 23
 - 2.3 Project Management..... 27
 - 2.4 Grouped Projects..... 33

- 3 Benefits for People and Prosperity 34**
 - 3.1 Impacts on Stakeholders 34
 - 3.2 Stakeholder Impact Monitoring 38
 - 3.3 Net Positive Stakeholder Well-being Impacts 40

- 4 Benefits for the Planet 41**
 - 4.1 Impacts on Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services 41
 - 4.2 Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services Impact Monitoring 41
 - 4.3 Net Positive Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services Impacts..... 43

- Appendix 1: Occupational, health and safety 45**

1 SUMMARY OF SDG CONTRIBUTIONS

Table 1: Summary of SDG Contributions

Row number	Quantitative Project Contributions during Monitoring Period	Contributions during Project Lifetime	SDG Target	SDG Indicator	Net Impact on SDG Indicator	Section Reference	Claim, Asset or Label
1)	<p>Within the monitoring period, a total of 120 community members were provided with training on sustainable production techniques linked to household gardens for improved long term food security.</p>	<p>The project delivers training to a minimum of 500 individuals from local communities listed in the Government's Sustainable Graduation Database. This training focuses on sustainable vegetable production, strengthening their resilience to both economic and climate-related shocks.</p> <p>Baseline – Learners have not received training on sustainable production or gardening. Individuals listed in the Government's sustainable graduation database are living below the poverty line.</p>	1.5 12.2	Project specific indicator - Number of community members trained in sustainable food production.	Increase	<p>Section 3.1, #1, #2</p> <p>Section 4.1., #3</p>	Claim

Row number	Quantitative Project Contributions during Monitoring Period	Contributions during Project Lifetime	SDG Target	SDG Indicator	Net Impact on SDG Indicator	Section Reference	Claim, Asset or Label
2)	<p>Within the monitoring period, the project established 1 greenhouse, supporting 378 beneficiaries at an early childhood development centre. Additionally, 295 individuals benefited from the 60 household gardens established.</p>	<p>The project supports the establishment of household vegetable gardens for beneficiaries listed in the Government’s Sustainable Graduation Database, alongside greenhouses at selected Early Childhood Development (ECD) centers. At least 1000 individuals benefit from increased fresh vegetable production. In addition, the project provides a min. of 10,000 fruit seedlings to individuals.</p> <p>Baseline – individuals listed in the Government’s sustainable graduation database are living below the poverty line. Identified ECDs have insufficient fresh vegetables to meet the needs of the school meal program.</p>	2.1. 2.2	Project specific indicator - Number of individuals benefiting from increased vegetable and fruit production	Increase	Section 3.1, #1	Claim

Row number	Quantitative Project Contributions during Monitoring Period	Contributions during Project Lifetime	SDG Target	SDG Indicator	Net Impact on SDG Indicator	Section Reference	Claim, Asset or Label
3)	<p>Within the monitoring period, the project has trained 100% of workers involved in the use and handling of chemicals on the responsible use of chemicals.</p>	<p>Although there is nominal use of chemicals at the project nursery, the project ensures responsible use of chemicals within project activities by providing training to 100% of project workers involved in chemical handling.</p> <p>Baseline – workers do not have the required knowledge on the responsible use of chemicals.</p>	3.9	<p>Project specific indicator - Percentage of workers involved in chemical handling who have received training</p>	Increase	Section 3.1., #10	Claim

Row number	Quantitative Project Contributions during Monitoring Period	Contributions during Project Lifetime	SDG Target	SDG Indicator	Net Impact on SDG Indicator	Section Reference	Claim, Asset or Label
4)	None	<p>The project supports the further education and technical/vocational skills development of at least 50 individuals from local communities and/or project staff.</p> <p>Baseline – Participants are from households listed in the Rwanda National Sustainable Graduation Database, living below the poverty line.</p>	4.4	Project specific indicator - Number of individuals trained or educated in higher education, technical, or vocational skills.	Increase		

Row number	Quantitative Project Contributions during Monitoring Period	Contributions during Project Lifetime	SDG Target	SDG Indicator	Net Impact on SDG Indicator	Section Reference	Claim, Asset or Label
5)	Within the monitoring period, the project provided training on sustainable gardening and climate education to 12 teachers.	<p>The project implements a train-the-trainer model to integrate sustainable development education into primary schools, ensuring long-term knowledge transfer. At least 40 teachers in rural schools receive training in sustainable gardening and climate education.</p> <p>Baseline – Primary school curriculum does not cover climate education and sustainable gardening practices. 0 teachers providing lessons.</p>	4.7.	Project specific indicator - Number of teachers provided with training.	Increase	Section 3.1, #4	Claim

Row number	Quantitative Project Contributions during Monitoring Period	Contributions during Project Lifetime	SDG Target	SDG Indicator	Net Impact on SDG Indicator	Section Reference	Claim, Asset or Label
6)	<p>Within the monitoring period, the project has trained 105 females (88% participation) within community development initiatives.</p>	<p>The project ensures the participation of females in training and socio-economic projects, with a minimum of 35% of female participation.</p> <p>Baseline – female participants are from households listed in the Government’s sustainable graduation database, living below the poverty line.</p>	5.1.	<p>Project specific indicator - The percentage of females included in training and economic development project activities.</p>	Increase	Section 3.1, #1, #5	Claim

Row number	Quantitative Project Contributions during Monitoring Period	Contributions during Project Lifetime	SDG Target	SDG Indicator	Net Impact on SDG Indicator	Section Reference	Claim, Asset or Label
7)	Within the monitoring period, the project has installed water taps at 1 location, increasing access to clean water for 490 individuals.	<p>The project implements water taps, water purifiers and rainwater harvesting systems in local communities, increasing access to safe water for at least 1,000 individuals.</p> <p>Baseline – No piped water within 1 km of school or households. Only 81.6% of schools have access to piped water. Only 57% of the Rwandan population has access safe drinking water that is within 30 minutes of their home.</p>	6.1.	Project specific indicator - Number of individuals benefiting from increased access to safe and affordable water.	Increase	Section 3.1, #3	Claim
8)	Within the monitoring period, the project has planted 1,631.5 ha.	The project restores a minimum of 5,000 ha of degraded riparian areas, stabilizing riverbanks and improving watershed health.	6.6 15.1	Project specific indicator - Total kilometers planted with Bamboo species.	Increase	Section 3.1.,#6 Section 4.1,	Claim

Row number	Quantitative Project Contributions during Monitoring Period	Contributions during Project Lifetime	SDG Target	SDG Indicator	Net Impact on SDG Indicator	Section Reference	Claim, Asset or Label
9)	None	<p>The project installs solar lights and provides access to renewable energy sources across rural communities, benefitting a minimum of 500 individuals.</p> <p>Baseline - An estimated 80.9% of all schools were connected to the electricity grid, while only 57,9% of the rural population has access to electricity.</p>	7.1	Project specific indicator – Number of individuals benefiting from increased access to sources of renewable energy.	Increase		Claim
10)	Within the monitoring period, the project has achieved an average of 345 jobs in 2023 and 566 jobs in 2024 with 100% of workers fairly compensated, with equal pay for identical job descriptions, irrespective of age, gender, or disabilities.	The project generates an average of 300 jobs starting in 2023, ensuring 100% of employees receive fair compensation and equal pay for equal work, regardless of age, gender, or disability status.	8.5.	Project specific indicator - The average number of jobs created annually and the percentage of workers receiving equal pay for equal work performed.	Increase	Section 3.1, #7, #8	Claim

Row number	Quantitative Project Contributions during Monitoring Period	Contributions during Project Lifetime	SDG Target	SDG Indicator	Net Impact on SDG Indicator	Section Reference	Claim, Asset or Label
11)	None	<p>The project supports the establishment of computer laboratories in rural schools, benefitting a minimum of 1000 students.</p> <p>Baseline – Schools do not have access to computers and/or internet. In 2019, 83.4% of primary schools and 85.4% of secondary schools had computers with 61.1% of the latter had 4G broadband connectivity.</p>	9c	Project specific indicator – Number of individuals benefiting from increased access to computers and internet.	Increase		Claim
12)	None.	<p>The project supports the establishment of micro-enterprises to stimulate the local economy, benefitting a minimum of 100 individuals.</p> <p>Baseline – 0 micro-enterprises established within selected villages.</p>	2.4 8.3 12.2	Project specific indicator - Number of individuals trained in responsible production practices and business skills.	Increase	Section 3.1 #2 Section 4.1, #3	Claim

Row number	Quantitative Project Contributions during Monitoring Period	Contributions during Project Lifetime	SDG Target	SDG Indicator	Net Impact on SDG Indicator	Section Reference	Claim, Asset or Label
13)	Within the monitoring period, the project has sequestered 18,845 tCO ₂ e from the project area.	A minimum of 2,645,000 tCO ₂ e is stored and sequestered over the project lifetime from the project area.	13.0	Tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions removed	Decrease	VCS validation report	SD VISta-labeled VCU
14)	Within the monitoring period, the project has established 8 partnerships within the monitoring period.	<p>The project establishes a minimum of eight partnerships, local and international, to enhance the implementation of nature-based solutions in Rwanda. These partnerships foster collaborative efforts to support social and environmental objectives.</p> <p>Baseline – 0 partnerships covering the scope of activities in the project area.</p>	17.0	Project specific indicator - Number of partnerships established to mobilize financial, technical, and institutional resources for nature-based solutions and sustainable development.	Increase	Section 3.1, #11	Claim

2 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1 Project Objectives, Context and Long-term Viability

2.1.1 Summary of Project Sustainable Development Objective(s)

The Rwanda Riparian Restoration Project is an AFOLU project, aimed at restoring key watershed areas in the landlocked hilly nation of Rwanda, through the planting of select species of sympodial (clumping) bamboos as riparian buffers. This carbon-financed project is located on land that is legally classified as riparian buffer zones. Specifically, the project is a revegetation project, targeting the planting and management of select species of giant clumping bamboo in a linear manner along rivers and lakes as chosen by the Rwanda Water Resources Board. Such riparian buffer zones represent state owned land, under the jurisdiction of the Rwanda Water Resources Board, a government entity that reports directly to the Prime Minister.

The project builds upon a successful grant financed pilot project (not under Verra's VCS certification scheme) carried out between 2019 - 2021 with the Rwanda Water Resources Board which has provided positive impacts on the surrounding ecosystems and served as the framework to design the VCS project (ID 3072). The current project includes the planting of bamboo clumps in riparian areas across eight districts, Ngororero, Karongi, Muhanga, Ruhango, Nyamagabe, Kamonyi, Nyaruguru and Gisagara. The project is a grouped project, with additional revegetation activities to occur specifically on riparian buffer zones, within the national boundaries of Rwanda representing the boundaries of the grouped project.

Additionally, socio-economic project activities will be implemented in designated areas within a maximum radius of 7 kilometers from the revegetation project sites. These activities are designed to benefit local communities residing near the riparian buffer zones. The socio-economic initiatives will address critical needs such as access to employment, clean water, food security, job creation, and the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices, enhancing the overall well-being and resilience of the affected communities. General workers and social impact participants are selected from the Government's National Sustainable Graduation Database¹, which includes households living below the poverty line that have been assessed as having the potential to achieve economic self-reliance. By targeting these households, the project supports national poverty reduction goals.

The sustainable development objectives of the project are:

- Enhanced food security. By promoting sustainable agricultural practices, establishment of vegetable growhouses and technical support of household gardens, the project increases food production and security in rural communities. This aligns with SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) by ensuring reliable food sources and strengthening local food systems.
- Empowerment and Safety – The project generates local employment and workers receive skills and knowledge on health and safety measures contributing to decent

working conditions. This contributes to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).









- **Empowerment of Marginalized Groups.** The project ensures the inclusion of women and children in employment and training programs, promoting social equity. This supports SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality).
- **Capacity Building.** Workers/Staff and Community members receive training in aspects such as sustainable land management, climate resilience, business skills and resource conservation, ensuring long-term impact and self-sufficiency. Opportunities for higher education and technical/vocational skills development is supported, contributing to SDG 4 (Quality Education).
- **Access to clean water.** The project includes the installation of piped water systems and rainwater harvesting infrastructure, improving community access to safe and reliable water sources. This directly contributes to SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation).
- **Restoration of degraded riparian buffer zones.** The project focuses on rehabilitating degraded riparian buffer zones by replanting them with bamboo species. This helps minimize soil erosion and restore biodiversity, contributing to SDG 15 (Life on Land) and SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) by improving watershed health.
- **Water resource protection.** Bamboo's extensive root system stabilizes soil and reduces sedimentation. This directly supports SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) by improving water quality while preventing degradation of aquatic ecosystems.
- **Improved access to sources of energy.** The project includes the installation of renewable sources of energy and/or solar lights to improve the quality of life for rural communities, contributing to SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy).
- **Job creation and economic empowerment.** The project generates employment opportunities for local communities, particularly through bamboo planting and maintenance, contributing to SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).
- **Enriched education.** The project supports improved access to ICT education for rural schools, improving the access to employment and entrepreneurship for community residents. This contributed to SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure).
- **Support for micro-enterprises and regenerative agriculture.** Through technical training and capacity-building programs, local farmers gain skills in regenerative agriculture, increasing productivity while restoring soil health. Additionally, the project promotes rural entrepreneurship by facilitating the development of micro-enterprises. These projects contribute to SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 12 (Responsible Production and Consumption) and SDG 15 (Life on Land).

- Community Engagement. The project integrates local communities in decision-making processes, ensuring their active involvement in the design and implementation of social impact projects.




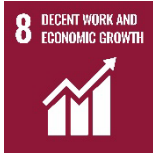


The project supports the following Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for Rwanda¹:





- Enhance sustainable agricultural practices to improve food security and resilience to climate change.
- Improve water resource management to ensure availability and quality under changing climate conditions.
- Promote sustainable land use and forestry management to enhance carbon sequestration and reduce emissions.
- Develop sustainable economic opportunities to improve livelihoods and reduce vulnerability to climate change.


2.1.2 Description of the Project Activity

Project Activity	Description	SDG Targets
Revegetation of riparian buffer zones	<p>This initiative relates to the planting of bamboo in degraded riparian areas to stabilize riverbanks, reduce soil erosion, reduce siltation into the rivers and enhance biodiversity.</p> <p>The project provides employment opportunities for local communities, with a focus on women and youth.</p> <p>Employment is non-discriminatory, with equal work for equal pay.</p> <p>The project utilizes select species of giant clumping bamboo planted at spacing intervals of 5m along the edges of rivers and / or lakes.</p> <p>Clumping bamboo species is an effective mechanism for biological carbon removals and</p>	       

¹ Government of Rwanda, 2020. Updated Nationally Determined Contribution.

Project Activity	Description	SDG Targets
	<p>represents a long-term carbon sink.</p> <p>The project proponent ensure decent working conditions and training of all workers involved in VCS project activities.</p> <p>The project proponent has partnered with Rwanda Water Resources Board and ClimatePartner to achieve the project's objectives.</p> <p>Mitigation measures implemented include training of workers, planting slightly back from the riverbank in erosion-prone areas to stabilize the land without risking immediate loss, community sensitization sessions, implementation of stakeholder feedback systems and patrol systems to monitor planted areas.</p>	
Enhancing food security	<p>The project facilitates the establishment of vegetable grow houses, kitchen gardens, micro-enterprises, and the adoption of regenerative agricultural practices to enhance food security, entrepreneurship and diversify income sources for local farmers.</p> <p>Vegetable grow houses are specifically promoted at Early Childhood Development (ECD) centers to support the health and well-being of children under the age of five.</p>	     

Project Activity	Description	SDG Targets
	Additionally, the project encourages women's participation in capacity-building and development activities, promoting gender inclusivity and empowering women within the community.	
Enhancing access to quality education and access to technology	The project enriches learning content on sustainable development, climate change and sustainable gardening. Workers and community residents, inclusive of women and children, are provided with opportunities for higher education, technical or vocational skills development. The project also aims to provide increased access to ICT tools, supporting the long term educational and employment goals of learners.	  
Enhancing access to water, Improving watershed health	<p>By revegetating riparian zones, the project contributes to the improvement of water quality and the restoration of ecosystem health. These efforts help stabilize riverbanks, reduce soil erosion, and filter pollutants, enhancing the overall integrity of water resources.</p> <p>In addition, the project supports the implementation of piped water infrastructure in rural communities, significantly increasing access to safe and affordable water. This infrastructure development ensures a reliable water supply,</p>	

Project Activity	Description	SDG Targets
	improving the well-being of community residents.	
Enhancing access to clean energy	By installing sources of renewable energy in rural communities, the project decreases the use of kerosene or fire while improving the quality of life of community residents.	

2.1.3 Implementation Schedule

Date	Milestone(s) in the Project's Development and Implementation
04.2021 – 12.2025	Introductory meetings with stakeholders
10.2022	Project Start Date for VCS reforestation project activities. Planting bamboo and creating local employment.
10.2022 - 09.2042	GHG Accounting Period
09.2024 – 12.2030	Implementation of Annual Community Impact Activities
06.2025	Verification of VCS, Validation and Verification of SD VISTA
03.2027	Verification of VCS
03.2029	Verification of VCS
12.2029	End date for bamboo reforestation activities.
03.2031	Verification of VCS and SD VISTA
03.2033	Verification of VCS
03.2035	Verification of VCS
03.2037	Verification of VCS and SD VISTA
03.2039	Verification of VCS
03.2041	Verification of VCS
03.2043	Verification of VCS and SD VISTA

Date	Milestone(s) in the Project's Development and Implementation
03.2045	Verification of VCS
03.2047	Verification of VCS
03.2049	Verification of VCS and SD VISTA
03.2051	Verification of VCS
03.2053	Verification of VCS
03.2055	Verification of VCS and SD VISTA
03.2057	Verification of VCS
03.2059	Verification of VCS
03.2062	Verification of VCS and SD VISTA

2.1.4 Project Proponent

Organization Name	EcoPlanet Bamboo Group, LLC
Role in the Project	Lead Organization
Contact Person	Camille Rebelo
Title	Chief Operating Officer
Address	4023 Kennett Pike, Wilmington DE 19807, USA
Telephone	+44.7801.999.862
Email	crebelo@ecoplanetbamboo.com

2.1.5 Other Entities Involved in the Project

Organization Name	EcoPlanet Bamboo Rwanda, Ltd
--------------------------	------------------------------

Role in the Project	EcoPlanet Bamboo Rwanda Ltd. Is a wholly owned subsidiary of EcoPlanet Bamboo Group, LLC, registered in Rwanda. This entity holds the legal agreement with the Rwanda Water Resources Board, detailed in Section 1.7 below. This entity works under the organizational structure and management of the project proponent, to carry out all aspects associated with project implementation, on-site management and monitoring. This entity is responsible for employing all staff as required to fulfill the project activities.
Contact Person	Camille Rebelo
Title	Managing Director
Address	Nyarugenge, Nyarugenge, Umujyi wa Kigali, Rwanda
Telephone	+44.7801.999.862
Email	crebelo@ecoplanetbamboo.com

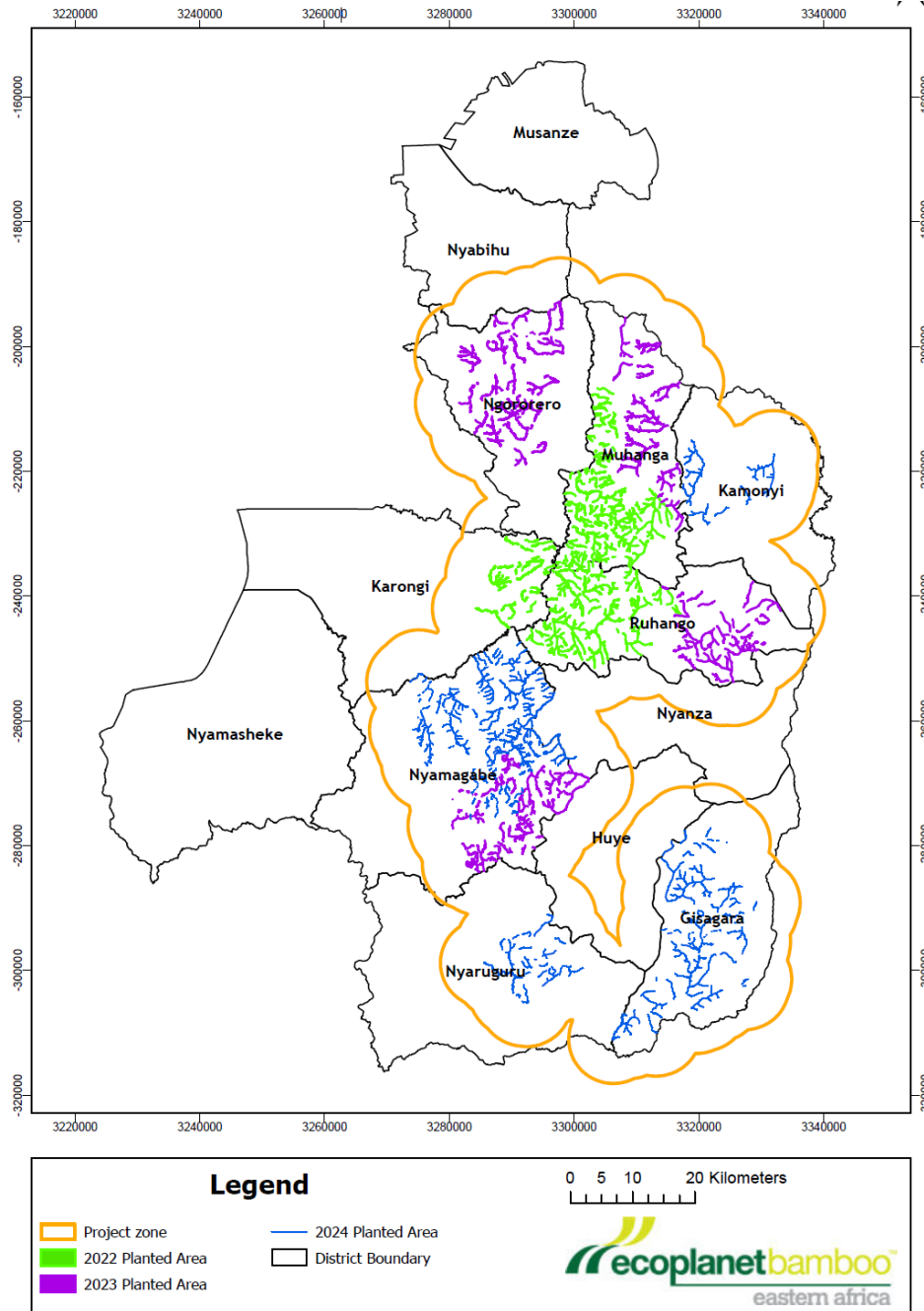
2.1.6 Project Location

The project currently covers the planting of bamboo clumps in riparian areas and socio-economic project activities across eight districts, Ngororero, Karongi, Muhanga, Ruhango, Nyamagabe, Kamonyi, Nyaruguru and Gisagara. The project is a grouped project, with additional revegetation and socio-economic project activities, within the national boundaries of Rwanda representing the boundaries of the grouped project.

Table 2: Centroid coordinates across eight Districts

District	Longitude	Latitude	Coordinates
Gisagara	29.84350767	-2.617520292	29.84350767164176 -2.6175202918279865
Kamonyi	29.90240343	-2.009446356	29.902403432472454 -2.009446355964485
Muhanga	29.72272543	-1.954890666	29.722725434731103 -1.954890665771586
Nyamagabe	29.46987877	-2.411356116	29.469878765292833 -2.4113561158919765
Nyaruguru	29.51703503	-2.69443794	29.517035026145606 -2.6944379403586254
Ruhango	29.77176058	-2.193597689	29.771760584383514 -2.193597688582429

District	Longitude	Latitude	Coordinates
Karongi	29.39409601	-2.140975131	29.394096013520254 -2.1409751306976545
Ngororero	29.56946507	-1.877844811	29.56946506885788 -1.8778448107893269

Figure 1: Map Reflecting the Project Zone


2.1.7 Project Description Deviations

No deviations.

2.1.8 Threats to the Project

To ensure the long-term success and sustainability of the project, both natural and human-induced threats that could potentially undermine the expected sustainable development benefits have been identified:

1. Natural Threats and Mitigation Measures

- Extreme Weather Events - Increased frequency of droughts, flooding, or extreme weather events may affect the growth and survival of planted bamboo within the VCS project areas and disrupt agricultural productivity in the wider landscape in the SD VISta project area.

Mitigation Measures: Use of drought-tolerant bamboo species within the VCS project area to ensure it can withstand climate extremes. Encourage crop diversification and regenerative agricultural practices within local communities in the wider landscape in the SD VISta project area to improve resilience against unpredictable weather patterns.

- Soil Erosion and Degradation: Severe soil erosion due to heavy rainfall or unstable riverbanks may hinder revegetation success in the VCS project area and reduce agricultural productivity in the wider landscape in the SD VISta project area.

Mitigation Measures: Within the VCS project, training workers to plant bamboo within the allocated 5-meter riparian buffer zone, away from severely eroded riverbanks. Within the wider landscape in the SD VISta project area, introduce contour farming and regenerative agriculture to prevent soil loss and improve fertility.

2. Human-induced Threats and Mitigation Measures

- Illegal Farming and Resource Encroachment - Some community members may attempt to illegally farm within the riparian buffer zones, including the removal of bamboo to reclaim land for cultivation, threatening the environmental restoration objectives.

Mitigation Measures: Conduct ongoing community sensitization and awareness campaigns with local government officials highlighting the long-term environmental and economic benefits of riparian restoration. Implement regular monitoring and security patrols to deter illegal activities and protect revegetated areas. Provide employment opportunities and support for micro-enterprises to reduce dependence on illegal land use for income.

- Livestock Grazing and Crop Damage - Livestock grazing near water sources may damage bamboo plants, particularly during the early growth stages.

Mitigation Measures: Install cages or fencing around young plants in high-livestock areas. Project staff work closely with local district officials, the Rwanda Water Resources Board, and agricultural extension officers to ensure that communities understand the environmental and economic

benefits of the planted bamboo. Farmers are educated on the importance of protecting bamboo stands, with emphasis placed on the long-term advantages of riparian restoration for soil stabilization, water conservation.

2.1.9 Benefit Permanence

The measures are as per the SD VISTA Project Description. The assessment is combined with the validation audit.

2.2 Stakeholder Engagement

2.2.1 Stakeholder Consultation and Adaptive Management

The communication and consultation between the project proponent and communities and other stakeholders has been continuous throughout the monitoring period and is planned to be maintained throughout the lifecycle of the project.

The project proponent conducted stakeholder meetings, providing a platform for open dialogue where participants can share insights and offer feedback on project plans and activities. These meetings ensured stakeholders have the opportunity to voice concerns and suggestions, fostering transparent communication. Additionally, the meetings highlighted project achievements and improvements, while feedback gathered will be used to enhance project objectives. The meetings helped identify community needs and align community expectations.

The project created Annual Impact Plans based on the multi-year investment that is driven by the findings of the socio-economic baseline assessment and yearly community engagement activities. This plan integrated stakeholder input into the project's decision-making processes, ensuring that local perspectives are actively considered throughout all stages of the project lifecycle. The full-time employed Community Development Officer led this process by facilitating ongoing communication between the project team, local government and the community. Feedback was obtained through meetings, interviews, and surveys, capturing the community's concerns, suggestions, and needs. The Community Development Officer monitors the implementation of the plan, continually engaging with the community to ensure their participation and assess the effectiveness of the actions taken.

EcoPlanet Bamboo is committed to engaging workers and employees and analyzing data to inform project management decisions. Results from monitoring and stakeholder consultations were utilised to implement corrective actions in revegetation and community development projects. Updates included changes in the design of household vegetable gardens and the use of fencing in areas impacted by increased grazing activity.

2.2.2 Anti-Discrimination

The project proponent is committed to providing a work environment free from discrimination and sexual harassment. The project proponent's Anti-Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Procedure, Human and Labor Rights Policy and Code of Ethics outlines measures designed to ensure that all entities involved in and with the company are not involved in, or complicit in any form of discrimination or sexual harassment based on gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, or other characteristics. Contractors sign a commitment to responsible practices. All levels of staff are provided with awareness training on the company policies and relevant procedures. The policies will be made available to the auditor.

2.2.3 Worker Training

The project proponent directly hires workers from the local communities for the VCS revegetation project, bordering the riparian areas, within the project area to support revegetation project activities and employs strategies to build valuable skills and knowledge within the project area:

- Provide training on occupational health and safety (OHS) related to their tasks, and other relevant skills necessary for their roles.
- Local staff lead training sessions, ensuring cultural relevance and the integration of local knowledge.
- Female participation in all training is encouraged, and mandatory for workers in the revegetation project activities.

For participants, in socio-economic project activities outside the VCS revegetation project area, in the community, all participants (inclusive of women) will be provided with customized training to meet the project activity objectives. Examples include training on the development and maintenance of household gardens, where groups of women were trained on utilizing local materials in the project².

2.2.4 Equal Work Opportunities

The project proponent provides equal employment opportunities to all stakeholders, ensuring that hiring practices are transparent, non-discriminatory, and inclusive. This commitment is guided by the project proponent's Anti-Discrimination Procedure, Recruitment Procedure, and Human and Labour Rights Procedure, which promotes fairness in all aspects of employment, from recruitment of general workers to management level positions. All stakeholders are given equal opportunities to apply for and fill available work positions, including management roles, provided they meet the job requirements. The selection process is based on merit, qualifications, and the ability to perform the tasks, without any form of discrimination related to race, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, disability, age, or any other characteristic protected by Rwanda labor legislation.

General workers are primarily selected from local communities bordering the VCS project area, ensuring that the project directly benefits surrounding communities. The project screens candidates from the Government of Rwanda's Sustainable Graduation³ Database in accordance with the project proponent's Recruitment Procedure. The project proponent conducts stakeholder meetings to inform community members about the project's objectives, potential risks, costs, and benefits, including available employment opportunities. The project strives to ensure that a minimum of 35% of the workforce, averaged on an annual basis, is female. Candidates are evaluated based on clear criteria related to qualifications, skills, and experience for management level positions. The selection process is designed to be objective, ensuring that all applicants are considered fairly.

All workers, regardless of their prior experience, are provided with training to equip them with the necessary skills to perform their roles safely and effectively²⁰. Additionally, the project invests in

² EcoPlanet Bamboo, Training Registers 2025.

³ Republic of Rwanda., 2022. Ministry of Local Government. National Strategy for Sustainable Graduation.

social impact activities designed to enhance the skills of local community members, particularly women.

2.2.5 Workers' Rights

Rwanda has ratified all eight of the International Labour Organization's (ILO) fundamental conventions, which cover core labor standards such as freedom of association, the right to collective bargaining, the elimination of forced and child labor, and the prohibition of discrimination in employment. These ratifications are reflected in Rwanda's labor laws.

Measures Utilized for Communicating and Overseeing Worker Rights:

- Permanent workers are provided with induction training upon onboarding, which includes information on their rights under labor legislation along with awareness training on company policies and procedures.
- Regular communication channels, such as quarterly meetings, are utilized to reinforce workers' awareness of their rights and obligations.
- Project proponent staff are employed to address enquiries and concerns regarding workers' rights and to ensure compliance with legal requirements.
- As detailed in the project proponent's Conflict Resolution Procedure and Whistleblower Policy, grievance mechanisms are in place to allow workers to raise concerns or complaints related to their rights, with the assurance of prompt and fair resolution.

2.2.6 Occupational Safety Assessment

The project proponent has assessed the potential risks to workers or other stakeholder groups that could arise during project implementation, along with corresponding measures to inform workers of these risks and minimize them. This risk assessment was reviewed and agreed upon by the project proponent's occupational, health and safety committee, which is comprised of management level employees and workers from each section of the project proponent's operations. Refer to Appendix 1.

Workers are provided with induction training upon onboarding, which includes information on risks and associated mitigation measures. Where required, external stakeholders are provided with awareness talks detailing risks and mitigation measures, should project activities pose a risk to their safety or assets.

2.2.7 Feedback and Grievance Redress Procedure

The project proponent's Conflict Resolution Procedure can be accessed by the public upon request at the project proponent's offices in Kigali, Rwanda. Upon joining the company, workers and employees are introduced to the policies and procedures during their onboarding process and undergo an annual refresher on the procedures. Contractors receive awareness training on the policies. Additionally, stakeholders are informed about the procedure during annual stakeholder engagement sessions or community meetings facilitated by the community officers

or general manager. All grievances received through various channels are documented in a central database. Each grievance is recorded with details such as the nature of the grievance, date of submission, individuals involved, and description of the issue. Project responses to grievances are documented alongside the corresponding grievance entry. Each response includes the date and details of the closure evidence. Dependent on the nature of the grievance and preference of stakeholders, grievances or conflicts may be resolved legally through the courts or traditional systems.

2.2.8 Stakeholder Access to Project Documentation

Summaries of project documentation, including the project description and the results of the monitoring plan, are made available to stakeholders and communities in the following ways:

1. All project documentation will be available online via Verra's registry portal.
2. Copies of the documentation are available at the project proponent's offices. Assistance will be available to assist community members or other stakeholders who are unable to read or understand the documents in English.
3. Copies can be requested via email by emailing info@ecoplanetbamboo.com

The project proponent informs stakeholders of where and how the documentation can be accessed during annual stakeholder meetings and/or informational letters providing them with a summary of the project description, monitoring plan and results.

2.2.9 Information to Stakeholders on Assessment Process

The project proponent utilizes the following approaches to inform stakeholders of the assessment process and assessor's site visit:

1. Community Meetings: We conduct regular community meetings where the Community Development Officer provides updates on project activities, including information about the SD VISta validation and verification assessment process and how communication with the assessor may be facilitated.
2. Emails, Calls, and Messages: We utilize various communication channels, including email, phone calls, and text messages, to disseminate information about the validation and verification process and communication with the assessor.
3. Engagement with Local Leaders: We engage with local leaders, such as village heads, to ensure that they understand the validation and verification process, communication with the assessor and can help communicate this information to their communities effectively.
4. Engagement with Workers: Contractor and own workers are engaged via toolbox talks on the validation and verification process to ensure their understanding of their roles and responsibilities within the process and how their communication with the assessor may be arranged.

5. **Advance Notification:** Communities and stakeholders will receive advance notification of the auditor's site visit through multiple channels, such as community meetings, emails, and phone calls. This notification will include the date, time, and purpose of the site visit, as well as contact information for the project team in case stakeholders have any questions or concerns.
6. **Community Representatives:** Community representatives or liaisons who serve as points of contact between the community and the project proponent will be made available during the audit. These representatives are responsible for facilitating communication, ensuring that community members are informed and involved throughout the audit process.
7. **Scheduled Meetings with the Assessors:** Meetings between community representatives and the assessors may be scheduled to ensure that community concerns are heard and addressed. These meetings may take place during the site visit or virtually, depending on the preferences and availability of the stakeholders involved.

2.3 Project Management

2.3.1 Avoidance of Corruption

The project proponent is a morally sound company with the highest ethical standards. Bribery, extortion, fraud, collusion and any other corrupt behaviors are prohibited in any operation conducted by the Company or any individual within the Company. This is contained within the project proponent's Anti-Corruption Policy and Code of Ethics which will be made available to the auditor. All contractors sign the project proponent's Responsible Contractor Agreement which stipulates adherence to Company Policies and procedures.

2.3.2 Recognition of Property Rights

The project proponent is committed to ensuring that all property rights, both statutory and customary, are recognized, respected, and supported throughout project planning and implementation. This commitment aligns with national laws and the project proponent's Code of Ethics and commitment to international standards.

Within the VCS Project Area: The project proponent is committed to the public- private partnership with the Rwanda Water Resources Board.

Outside the VCS Project Area: In rural areas where customary land tenure systems exist, the project acknowledges these rights through consultations with traditional leaders and community members, even where formal documentation may be absent. The project follows Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) principles to guarantee that all affected communities are fully informed and voluntarily consent to any activities impacting their land and resources. Regular

consultations with landowners, local authorities, and community representatives ensure that any concerns about property rights are addressed transparently⁴.

2.3.3 Free, Prior and Informed Consent

Within the VCS Reforestation Project Area:

The GHG emissions removal project is occurring on government land managed by the Rwanda Water Resources Board. There are no people living within the project area. Therefore, no FPIC processes are required for the VCS Revegetation project area.

Outside the VCS Reforestation Project Area:

The project proponent employs the following measures:

1. Consultations are held with affected parties, including community members and landowners, to obtain their free, prior, and informed consent before implementing project activities within community areas. Examples include where land in the local community is required for the establishment of project activities such as micro-enterprises.
2. The project engages in transparent and participatory processes, providing stakeholders with comprehensive information about the project's objectives, potential impacts, and proposed activities.
3. The project team collaborates closely with Community Village Heads and usufruct rights holders, to facilitate consultations and ensure that project activities are conducted in accordance with local customs, laws, and regulations.
4. Records of consultations, meetings, and agreements are documented to demonstrate the process of obtaining FPIC. These records include meeting minutes, signed agreements, and any correspondence exchanged with stakeholders.

2.3.4 Restitution and/or Compensation for Affected Resources

The project proponent is committed to ensuring that no stakeholders experience negative impacts from project activities within or outside the VCS project area. This is achieved through thorough environmental and social assessments⁵, stakeholder consultations, and adherence to legislation.

Within the VCS Project Area: The project operates on government-owned land, with sufficient buffer zones established to separate project activities from adjacent farmland and communities. This strategic planning minimizes the risk of unintended consequences on neighboring land users. Due to the nature of revegetation activities, no negative impacts on third-party

⁴ EcoPlanet Bamboo Community Engagement Records and Records of Free, Prior and Informed Consent.

⁵ EcoPlanet Bamboo. Socio-Economic Baseline Assessments 2022 -2025.

stakeholders are anticipated within the VCS project area. As a result, no restitution or compensation measures are required.

Outside the VCS Project Area: All social and environmental projects beyond the VCS project boundaries are planned in collaboration with community members, local government, and other affected stakeholder groups. This participatory approach ensures that potential impacts are identified early on and mitigated proactively. Should any potential negative impacts be identified, they will be addressed through FPIC processes. Affected parties will have the opportunity to voice their concerns, and any necessary restitution or compensation will be discussed and agreed upon transparently. The process will be conducted in partnership with local government entities to ensure fairness and compliance with legal requirements.

2.3.5 Property Rights Removal/Relocation of Property Rights Holders

No removal or relocation of people occurs within the VCS project area. Should there be a relocation of important activities occurring in the project area outside the VCS project area, these will occur within the terms of the agreement between the Government of Rwanda and the affected community members. The agreement will contain the free, prior, and informed consent of those concerned which includes provisions for just and fair compensation.

2.3.6 Identification of Illegal Activities

Potential illegal activities, both within and outside the VCS project area, have been identified, and measures have been designed to mitigate their impact on the project's outcomes.

Within the VCS Project Area:

There is a risk of illegal farming activities within the VCS project area, particularly in the buffer zones. Some farmers may attempt to remove bamboo plants after planting to continue unauthorized farming activities. Regular security patrols are conducted to monitor the VCS project area and prevent the unauthorized removal of bamboo. The project engages in continuous community sensitization efforts to educate local farmers about the long-term environmental and economic benefits of bamboo revegetation project activities. By fostering community buy-in and awareness, the project reduces resistance and promotes cooperation. Experiences from the initial pilot project, where community engagement significantly reduced bamboo destruction, are applied to the broader project implementation. These lessons guide ongoing strategies to prevent illegal farming.

Outside the VCS Project Area:

Illegal mining activities in surrounding areas could undermine the environmental benefits of the project by contributing to soil degradation and water pollution. Any illegal mining activities observed outside the VCS project area are promptly reported to local government authorities for appropriate legal action.

2.3.7 Ongoing Conflicts or Disputes

At the project's inception, no conflicts over legal access to land or resources were observed or noted with communities or with the Government of Rwanda in the last 20 years.

2.3.8 National and Local Laws and Regulations

The following laws, statutes and other regulatory frameworks are relevant to the project. EcoPlanet Bamboo Rwanda, Ltd operates in full compliance with the legal framework of Rwanda, which can be verified through interviews with key government entities and representatives or via the review of relevant compliance records.

Table 3 : Applicable Legislation

National Legislation	General Provision	Compliance
Constitution of Rwanda	Provides the overarching legal framework for Rwanda, including key Articles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Article 49: each Person has the right to a healthy and satisfying environment. Each person is responsible for protecting, conserving and promoting the environment. The state ensures environmental protection. b. Article 29: every person has a right to property and that property shall not be interfered with except in public interest and after fair and prior compensation. 	The project proponent and implementing partner operates within the parameters of all laws of the Government of Rwanda.
Law Governing Land n° 27/2021 of 10/06/2021	Articles 30 and 31 indicate that lands on the banks of rivers are state lands in the public domain and are inalienable.	The VCS project area is located on the banks of the rivers and therefore is public domain.
The Ministerial Order Determining the Length of Land on Shores of Lakes and Rivers Transferred to Public Property n°007/16.01 of 15/07/2010	Determines the length of land on shores of lakes and rivers transferred to public property: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. In its article 4 states that “Public land referred to in this Order shall be a protected area. Authorities are not allowed to issue this land as private property. No activities or buildings are authorized on the said land except activities aiming at protecting lakes, rivers, shores or 	The project plants on the buffer zones of the rivers, which is determined within this legislation to be 5 meters or 10 meters depending on the size of the rivers. The Rwanda Water Resources Board has actively promoted the planting of select species

National Legislation	General Provision	Compliance
	<p>activities authorized by the Minister in charge of environment and when such activities are deemed not destructive to the environment on condition that a prior environmental impact assessment study has been done”</p> <p>b. In Article 5 about Safeguarding and restoring shores of lakes and rivers, it is well stated that “the land within a distance of fifty (50) meters from the lakeshore and the land on the river shore within the distance referred to in Article 3 (the land within a distance of ten (10) and five (5) meters from the shore of big rivers and small rivers respectively is public property) are reserved as natural vegetation. Artificial vegetation can be grown on this land in case of restoring damaged land or if that vegetation is responsible for protecting the environment by stopping soil erosion, being habitats for living organisms’</p>	<p>of sympodial bamboo, such as those that the project proponent is planting, as a specific recommended activity for the safeguarding and restoring of lakes and rivers.</p> <p>The project operates under a framework that is approved by the Rwanda Water Board, with such documentation available to auditors.</p>
Law Establishing Rwanda Water Resources Board N° 71/2019 of 29/01/2020	This law established Rwanda Water Resources Board and provided its legal framework granting administrative and financial autonomy. It falls within the category of non- commercial public institutions.	The project proponent partners with this institution and it is a key stakeholder of the project.
Law Governing Biodiversity in Rwanda N° 70/2013 of 02/09/2013	<p>This law defines protected areas, rules on protected species and invasive species.</p> <p>This law also requires import permits when bringing in plant material to Rwanda, whether native or non-native species.</p>	No bamboo species is included on the list of protected species. The species being planted by the project are sympodial (clumping) bamboo species that are not invasive, nor have any potential to become invasive.
Environmental Organic Law N°	Creates the precedent for environmental impact assessments	The planting of bamboo for riparian protection

National Legislation	General Provision	Compliance
04/2005 OF 08/04/2005	(EIAs).	does not include any activities that trigger an EIA. It is an activity that is promoted by the Rwanda Water Resources Board, the government entity that manages the riparian areas, and as a result an EIA is not required for the proposed project activities ⁶ .
Law Governing Labor in Rwanda N° 66/2018 of 30/08/2018:	Provides a framework for labor relations and employment in Rwanda.	The implementing partner under the project proponent operates within this Act. Records of employment contracts, training, payroll, etc. are available to the assessor.
Ministerial Order on Occupational Health and Safety N° 02/MIFOTRA/22 OF 30/08/2022	Provides the framework for occupational, health and safety in the workplace for workers as well as stipulations for leave.	The implementing partner under the project proponent operates within this Order. Records of meeting minutes, training, issuance of PPE, etc. are available to the assessor.
Presidential order n°25/01 of 09/07/2012 Law N° 59/2011 of 31/12/2011 Article 18, 43) Law No 37/2012 of 09/11/2012 Law N°02/2015 of 25/02/2015 Law n° 37/2012 of 09/11/2012	Taxes and Fees Establishing the list of fees and other charges levied by decentralized entities and determining their thresholds (Article 23)	The implementing partner under the project proponent operates within this legislation. Records of payments and good standing are available to the auditor.
Law N° 007/2021 of 05/02/2021 Governing Companies	This law outlines the procedures for incorporating, managing, and dissolving companies in Rwanda.	The implementing partner under the project proponent operates within this Act. Records of company registration

⁶ Interview with Rwanda Water Resources Board

National Legislation	General Provision	Compliance
		are available to the assessor.
Law N° 009/2021 of 16/02/2021 Establishing Rwanda Social Security Board (RSSB).	This law outlines the process requiring Company registration with the RSSB.	The implementing partner under the project proponent operates within this Act. Records are available to the assessor.

2.4 Grouped Projects

This is a combined validation and verification assessment. No new instances have been included.

3 BENEFITS FOR PEOPLE AND PROSPERITY

3.1 Impacts on Stakeholders

Impact #1	Reduced hunger and increased social and economic resilience among vulnerable people
Type of Impact	Positive, no risk to stakeholders, predicted, direct.
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	Government, Local Communities, Women
Resulting Change in Well-being	Technical knowledge in the establishment and maintenance of vegetable gardens is transferred to learners. Direct access to nutritious vegetables increases dietary diversity and reduces food scarcity in vulnerable households. Fresh vegetables from growhouses improve school meal programs, reducing malnutrition. Women are actively engaged in project activities (88% in household garden project), securing their inclusion.
Impact #2	Workers maintain good health and well-being whilst in employment
Type of Impact	Positive, risk, actual, direct.
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	Workers

Resulting Change in Well-being	<p>Although workers are exposed to only minimal or nominal amounts of hazardous chemicals at the project nurseries, 100% of those involved in chemical handling have maintained good health while employed by the project proponent. All workers received appropriate training and are supervised to ensure that safe handling procedures are consistently applied in the workplace.</p> <p>Risk – direct skin or eye exposure to hazardous chemicals.</p> <p>Mitigation - Workers are provided with the required protective clothing and are capacitated in risks and mitigation measures.</p>
Impact #4	<p>Learners are empowered with knowledge to promote sustainable development.</p>
Type of Impact	<p>Positive, no risk to stakeholders, actual, direct.</p>
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	<p>Government, Local communities, Children</p>
Resulting Change in Well-being	<p>Teachers gained practical knowledge on sustainability topics, improving lesson quality. Learners in rural schools acquired foundational knowledge in climate education, sustainable gardening, and resource efficiency, empowering them to become environmental stewards within their communities.</p>
Impact #5	<p>Empowerment of females within rural communities.</p>
Type of Impact	<p>Positive, no risk to stakeholders, actual, direct.</p>
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	<p>Local Communities, Women</p>
Resulting Change in Well-being	<p>Women gain skills in sustainable gardening and/or agriculture and/or micro-enterprise management and/or sustainable resource utilization, enabling them to contribute to household-level resilience, start businesses or access employment. With improved agricultural skills, women contribute to household food production, reducing malnutrition & hunger.</p>

Impact #6	Improved hygiene and access to clean and affordable drinking water.
Type of Impact	Positive, no risk to stakeholders, actual, direct.
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	Government, Local Communities
Resulting Change in Well-being	Clean drinking water has significantly improved hygiene within the school, where no water was previously available for handwashing, contributing to better overall community health. The availability of nearby water has also reduced the time women and children spend collecting it, allowing them to focus more on education, work, and family care.

Impact #7	Restoration of inland freshwater ecosystems for improved water quality and resilience to natural disasters
Type of Impact	Positive, no risk to stakeholders, actual, indirect.
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	Local Communities, Government
Resulting Change in Well-being	<p>Planted vegetation stabilizes riverbanks, reducing the risk of floods, droughts, and erosion. Reduced sedimentation enhances water quality, benefiting households and farms that depend on river water. Less sedimentation lowers maintenance costs for dams, reservoirs, and water treatment facilities.</p> <p>Negative impact for illegal community farmers – removal of farmers operating within the riparian buffer zone illegally.</p> <p>Risks – uprooting of planted bamboo, grazing of cattle will damage bamboo saplings.</p> <p>Mitigation – Community sensitization on legal land tenure belonging to the Government, benefits of the project and opportunities for employment. Patrol systems are implemented.</p>

Impact #8	Job creation
Type of Impact	Positive, no risk to stakeholders, actual, direct.
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	Local communities, Workers, Women
Resulting Change in Well-being	Both casual and permanent jobs are created on an annual basis, contributing to improved livelihoods and economic empowerment within local communities.

Impact #9	Anti-discrimination employment practices
Type of Impact	Positive, no risk to stakeholders, actual, direct.
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	Workers, Women
Resulting Change in Well-being	Women and men receive equal wages for the same job, reducing economic disparities. Equal pay fosters a motivated workforce, enhancing efficiency and job satisfaction.

Impact #10	Partnerships enable the implementation and expansion of nature-based solutions and sustainable development.
Type of Impact	Positive, no risk to stakeholders, actual, direct.
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	Government, ClimatePartner

Resulting Change in Well-being

Partnerships attract financial support for restoration activities, reducing government expenditure on conservation programs. Partnerships support Rwanda’s Vision 2050, promoting green economy initiatives, water conservation, and reforestation efforts. Access to technical expertise and knowledge-sharing enhances public sector capabilities in sustainable land management. The partnerships establish a replicable business model, attracting further investment in nature-based solutions across Rwanda and beyond.

3.2 Stakeholder Impact Monitoring

Stakeholder Group	SDG Target	Indicator/ Type of Measurement	Results (01.10.2022 to 30.04.2025)	Method	Frequency	Reporting
Local Communities Women	1.5 12.2	Number of individuals trained in sustainable production and food security	120 individuals trained ^{7,8} .	Quantitative - 100% of trainees verified	Annually	Annual Impact Report
Local Communities Government	2.1	Number of beneficiaries with improved food security, implementing sustainable gardening practices	None	Quantitative - 100% of households and early childhood development centres with implemented projects	Annually	Annual Impact Report
Workers, Women	3.9	Percentage of workers involved in chemical handling who have received formal training	100% of workers involved in chemical use and handling trained ^{7,9} .	Quantitative - 100% of workers involved in chemical handling are trained	Annually	Annual Training Report

⁷ EcoPlanet Bamboo Training Records and Stakeholder Interviews

⁸ EcoPlanet Bamboo Post Training Monitoring Records

⁹ EcoPlanet Bamboo Accident/Incident Records

Stakeholder Group	SDG Target	Indicator/ Type of Measurement	Results (01.10.2022 to 30.04.2025)	Method	Frequency	Reporting
Local communities, Staff/Workers, Women, Children	4.4	Number of individuals trained or educated in higher education, technical, or vocational skills.	None	Quantitative - 100% of trainees verified	Annually	Annual Impact Report
Government	4.7	Number of teachers provided with training and integrating sustainability education into curriculums	12 teachers trained ^{7, 10} .	Quantitative – tracking of participation numbers via attendance records	Annually	Implementation Report
Women	5.1	The percentage of female participation in social impact project activities	88% of female participation (105 females) in household garden projects ^{7,8} .	Quantitative - Participation tracking	Annually	Annual Impact Report
Government Local Communities	6.1	Number of individuals benefiting from improved water access	490 individuals ¹¹	Quantitative - Government survey	Every 5 years	Government Report/ Statement
Government	6.6	Number of hectares planted with bamboo	1631.5 ha planted	Quantitative - Annual Planting Report	Every 5 years	Annual Operational Report
Local Communities	7.1	Number of individuals benefiting from increased access to sources of renewable energy.	None	Quantitative - Government survey	Every 5 years	Government Report

¹⁰ EcoPlanet Bamboo Training Materials and Infrastructure

¹¹ Attestation Record from Local Government

Stakeholder Group	SDG Target	Indicator/ Type of Measurement	Results (01.10.2022 to 30.04.2025)	Method	Frequency	Reporting
Workers (General & Management Staff)	8.5	Number of jobs per month; The percentage of workers receiving equal pay for equal work	The project has achieved an average of 345 jobs in 2023 and 566 jobs in 2024 with 100% of workers fairly compensated , with equal pay for identical job descriptions, irrespective of age, gender, or disabilities ¹²	Quantitative - Payroll analysis	Monthly	Payroll Reports
Local Communities Children	9c	Number of individuals benefiting from increased access to computers and internet.	None	Quantitative - School Attendance Report	Annually	School Report
Government and ClimatePartner	17.17	Number of partnerships established for sustainable development funding	Eight partnerships formalised ¹³ .	Quantitative - Document verification	Annually	Formalised Agreements/ Annual Reports to Partners

3.3 Net Positive Stakeholder Well-being Impacts

Out of the 8 impacts achieved in the monitoring period, 8 positive impacts were recognized that directly benefit local government, ClimatePartner, communities, workers, and women resulting in a net positive impact on these stakeholder groups. There were no identified negative impacts identified. Although 1 impact may carry a risk, these are mitigated and are outweighed by the net positive impact.

¹² EcoPlanet Bamboo Payroll Records and Interviews with Workers

¹³ Partnership Agreements/ Annual Reports

4 BENEFITS FOR THE PLANET

4.1 Impacts on Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services

Impact #1	Strengthened Climate Change Resilience
Type of Impact	Positive, Predicted, Direct
Affected Natural Capital and/or Ecosystem Service(s)	Atmosphere
Resulting Change in Condition	1,631.5 ha of riparian areas have been revegetated with bamboo spp. resulting in 18,845 tCO ₂ e stored and sequestered. Refer to VCS Project ID 3072

Impact #2	Restoration of inland freshwater ecosystems
Type of Impact	Positive, predicted, indirect
Affected Natural Capital and/or Ecosystem Service(s)	Soil
Resulting Change in Condition	1,631.5 ha of planted areas contribute to reduced soil erosion into adjacent rivers. Root structures held soil in place, resulting in improved water quality through decreased erosion into adjacent rivers.

4.2 Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services Impact Monitoring

Present the results of natural capital and ecosystem service impact monitoring, which should:

No	Natural Capital/ Ecosystem Service	Type of Measurement	Sampling Method	Frequency of Monitoring	Results	Frequency of Reporting
1	Atmosphere	Quantitative - Sequestration of GHG emissions	Permanent sampling plots	This parameter will be monitored under the VCS program for the referenced project. Only the results obtained during the corresponding SD VISTA Monitoring Period (MP) will be considered in estimations. No separate sampling or monitoring activities will be conducted specifically under the SD VISTA program.	18,845tC O2 sequestered ¹⁴	Every 2 years, at the time of verification
2	Soil stabilization	Quantitative – Number of hectares planted	100% area planted	Annually	1,631.5 ha planted ¹⁵	Annually
4	Soil restoration	Quantitative- Application of regenerative farming	Permanent sample plots in	Annually	None within the monitoring period	Annually

¹⁴ VCS Project ID 3072 Monitoring Report

¹⁵ EcoPlanet Bamboo Monitoring Records

No	Natural Capital/ Ecosystem Service	Type of Measurement	Sampling Method	Frequency of Monitoring	Results	Frequency of Reporting
		practices in established agricultural micro-enterprises.	agricultural projects			
5	Biodiversity	Quantitative - Volume of synthetic chemicals utilized in socio-economic projects	Survey with project trainees	Annually	None within the monitoring period	Annually
6	Biodiversity	Quantitative – Diversity of trees, vegetables and soil coverage	Permanent sample plots in agricultural micro-enterprise plots	Annually	None within the monitoring period	Annually

4.3 Net Positive Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services Impacts

The project's interventions generated net positive outcomes for natural capital and the provision of key ecosystem services within the monitoring period.

- Restoration of Degraded Land and Ecosystem Function: Through reforestation efforts, the project planted 1,631.5 ha of degraded riparian areas. Ecosystem services such as soil stabilization are enhanced by planting the bamboo species.
- The removal of GHG emissions through emissions reductions verified under VCS supports global climate mitigation efforts while improving local ecosystem resilience. Refer to Figure 2.

Figure 2: GHG Emission Removals Over the Project Monitoring Period

Year	Estimated baseline emissions or removals (tCO ₂ e)	Project removals (tCO ₂ e)	Estimated leakage emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Net GHG emission reductions or removals (tCO ₂ e)
2022 -2024	0	18,845	0	18,845
TOTAL				18,845

APPENDIX 1: OCCUPATIONAL, HEALTH AND SAFETY

The project proponent is committed to prioritizing the health and safety of employees and stakeholders, complying with national regulations, and providing resources for a safe work environment.

The project proponent has assessed the hazards associated to project activities, likelihood of each hazard causing harm, the severity of harm that could result from each hazard to determine the level of risk and extent of mitigation measures. Risks were classified into the following categories - Low Risk: Risk Level 1 – 3; Moderate Risk: Risk Level 4 – 6; High Risk: Risk Level 8 – 15 and Extreme Risk: Risk Level 16 – 25.

Activity	Hazard Description	Likelihood (L)	Severity (S)	Risk Level (L x S)	Control Measures
Pitting	Injury from sharp tools	3	3	6	Provide training on safe handling of tools, safe work distances, ensure proper maintenance of equipment
Hoeing	Injury from sharp tools	3	2	6	Provide training on safe handling of tools, safe work distances, ensure proper maintenance of equipment
Planting/Blanking	Injuries from tools	2	2	4	Provide training on proper planting techniques, provide appropriate PPE (where required), ensure adequate rest breaks
Casing/Ring weeding	Injury from sharp tools, repetitive strain	2	2	4	Provide training on safe handling of tools, ensure adequate rest breaks, provide PPE
Transporting chemicals	Chemical spills, skin contact, inhalation risks	3	2	6	Provide training on safe transportation procedures, ensure proper labelling and secure packaging of chemicals, adhere to SoP for Management of Chemicals
Manual spraying of chemicals	Exposure to toxic chemicals, inhalation risks	3	5	15	Provide training on chemical handling and safety procedures, provide appropriate PPE as required by the SDS, adhere to SoP on Management of Chemicals. Affected staff have annual medicals. Specific employees are identified for the application of chemicals.
Managing chemical and diesel spillages	Pollution, contamination risks	3	3	9	Provide spill response training, ensure availability of spill kits and absorbent materials are available where practical, implement proper disposal procedures for contaminated materials, conduct regular inspections of

Activity	Hazard Description	Likelihood (L)	Severity (S)	Risk Level (L x S)	Control Measures
					storage and handling areas. Adherence to SoPs on Management of Chemicals and Management of Waste
Working in extreme weather	Heatstroke, lightning strikes	4	4	16	Provide training on recognizing and managing symptoms of epistaxis, heatstroke, implement prevention measures (e.g., frequent breaks, drinking water), train workers on lightning safety protocols (e.g., seeking shelter indoors), monitor weather forecasts.
Training new workers infield	Injuries during training, exposure to hazards	4	4	16	Provide induction safety training for new workers, conduct regular safety briefings and inspections, provide appropriate PPE, where required.
Solitary work	Injury, lack of immediate assistance	3	5	15	Implement check-in procedures for solitary workers, ensure workers have means of communication.
Vehicle Maintenance	Injuries from equipment, exposure to hazardous chemicals	3	5	15	In accordance with national regulations, annual inspections of vehicles are conducted, with maintenance activities planned.
Transport	Driver fatigue	2	5	10	Ensure regular rest breaks when travelling long distances, where possible ensure the rotation of drivers.
Transport	Road conditions	3	4	12	Ensure all drivers have legally required licenses. All motorbikes have been assessed by the competent authority on an annual basis. Drivers are provided with awareness talks on reduced speeds on gravel roads.
Responding to office emergencies	Injury from rushing, exposure to hazards	1	4	4	Provide emergency response awareness training, ensure availability of appropriate equipment (fire extinguishers and first aid box), adherence to SoP on Emergency Response
Responding to field emergencies	Injury from rushing, exposure to hazards	2	4	8	Provide emergency response awareness training and first aid training, ensure availability of appropriate equipment (first aid box), adherence to SoP on Emergency Response

Activity	Hazard Description	Likelihood (L)	Severity (S)	Risk Level (L x S)	Control Measures
Construction of nursery and community impact Infrastructure	Falls, equipment accidents	3	2	6	Provide awareness training on safe construction practices, ensure use of PPE, conduct regular inspections of construction sites