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Minutes of the Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) meeting for Attendance List – Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) Meeting for the LDCF IV Project: *Building Community Resilience and Transforming Livelihoods through Systems-based Adaptation and Integrated Resource Management in Rwanda's Southern Province*

Date: 27th of August 2025, 10.00am – 12.30pm

Venue: REMA Head Office

Agenda:

1. Welcoming remarks
2. Opening remarks
3. Presentation of the project"*Building Community Resilience and Transforming Livelihoods through Systems-based Adaptation and Integrated Resource Management in Rwanda's Southern Province*"
4. LPAC member discussion
5. Closing remarks

1. Welcoming remarks

The meeting was chaired by the UNDP Resident Representative, Ms. Fatmata Sesay. She welcomed participants and commended REMA's leadership and technical team for their efforts in developing the project, which has been endorsed by the GEF CEO. She noted that the proposal is nationally aligned and addresses urgent climate resilience needs in Rwanda's Southern Province, supported by over USD 66 million in co-financing from public and private partners, reflecting strong ownership and partner confidence. She highlighted the project's alignment with Vision 2050 and NST2, as well as its expansion from four to six districts to ensure broader impact and sustainability of earlier investments. The Chair emphasized contributions to resilience building through integrated landscape and water resource management, sustainable agriculture, and diversified livelihoods, with a strong focus on women and vulnerable groups are ensuring that at least 30% of supported enterprises are women-led, owned, or co-owned. She further underlined the importance of strengthening governance, mobilizing private sector investment, promoting value chain development, and improving access to markets and climate-smart technologies. In conclusion, she emphasized knowledge management, visibility, and dissemination of results as key to sustainability and scaling up, and reaffirmed UNDP's commitment to supporting the project's successful implementation.

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2. Opening remarks

Meeting co-chair Director General of REMA, Ms. Juliet Kabera thanked the UNDP Resident Representative, her technical team and welcomed colleagues and participants from various institutions to the meeting and noted the meeting as an important milestone in strengthening community resilience and transforming livelihoods in Rwanda's Southern Province. She emphasized that the project under validation is a continuation of the Green Amayaga Programme, aimed at scaling up its successes to achieve broader impact across landscapes, communities, and value chains. She acknowledged the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for endorsing the project under the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), reflecting confidence in Rwanda's commitment to climate action, and appreciated UNDP for its strong technical support in the project design. She further highlighted that the project would contribute to the realization of Rwanda's Vision 2050 and the National Strategy for Transformation (NST2), combining environmental sustainability with improved community well-being and development outcomes. In conclusion, she stressed that the meeting is not only about validating a document but also reaffirming institutional commitment to resilience building, ecosystem protection, and sustainable livelihoods. She called upon members to actively contribute to ensuring the project design responds to local needs and realities for effective implementation. She encouraged participants to share any additional ideas on the project.

3. Presentation on Ecosystems/Landscape Approach to Climate Proof the Rural Settlement Program of Rwanda

Philbert NKURUNZIZA, Ecosystem Recovery and Pollution Management Program Manager at REMA, gave an overview presentation of the project document, including the following components based on the project document:

- Project summary
- Project Rationale
- Project Consistency with national strategies, Policies and programs
- Expected results/ Outcomes
- Key main targets and indicators
- Way-forward/Request to LPAC Members

4. LPAC member discussion

After the presentation of the project, the co-chair opened the floor for discussion and inputs as follows:

C = Comment
Q = Question
A = Answer
F/U = Follow up

C/ UNDP RR: Emphasized the integrated nature of the project and the opportunity to address gaps from the previous phase (e.g., ownership, sustainability, and visibility). She opened the floor

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for comments and inputs.

Q/ Ruhango Vice Mayor: He suggested an earlier implementation start (December–January) instead of February 2026 and proposed a technical meeting to discuss the district-specific activities. He then endorsed the project.

A/ DG REMA: She supported the proposal for a technical meeting to discuss implementation of the district specific interventions.

Q/ RAB Representative: He questioned the use of PSTA4 instead of PSTA5 in indicators and suggested including capacity building and expanding the irrigation target (1,500Ha deemed small). He then endorsed the project.

A/ DG REMA: Explained that during the project design, the PSTA4 was still ongoing, but during project implementation, we will ensure the alignment with PSTA 5. She then explained that the capacity building is cross cutting across all components. The irrigation targets are not small as there will be additional small scale irrigation areas.

Q/ Huye Vice Mayor: He welcomed the district's inclusion in this project and endorsed it. However, he raised concerns about nursery timelines if implementation starts in February.

A/UNDP RR: She clarified that this is a 6-year project, that not all activities will start at the same time, but seasons will be considered during planning of the landscape restoration interventions.

C/ Gisagara Vice Mayor: He appreciated that this project is like the Green Amayaga 1 continuation and stressed the district commitment to more job creation and sustainability. He suggested an early technical planning meeting, especially for procurement and seedling preparation.

C/ MINALOC Representative: He appreciated alignment with government strategies and emphasized the need to ensure quality seedlings and follow-up on reforestation for sustainability. He therefore endorsed the project.

C/ Muhanga District: He endorsed the project and emphasized strengthening environmental committees to ensure the quality of interventions and most importantly sustainability.

C/Nyanza District: He endorsed the project and expressed readiness to implement, building on lessons learnt from Green Amayaga I.

C/ Kamonyi District: He commended the project design and new activities introduced such as rainwater harvesting. He expressed strong district commitment to exceed Green Amayaga I's achievements.

C/ Rwanda Forestry Authority (RFA): He reaffirmed commitment to quality seedling provision and confirmed to contribute to the project implementation through RFA' s co-financing fulfillment. He

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emphasized the need for harmonization of interventions in the same region to avoid duplication. He then endorsed the project.

C/ Rwanda Green Fund (RGF): She endorsed the project and proposed a meeting with REMA and UNDP to discuss implementation modalities for the sustainable finance component prior to the technical meeting.

Q/ National Land Authority (NLA): He endorsed the project and recommended to consider land use planning from the start of the project and aligning with catchment plans and land use action plans.

Q/ Huye Director of Agriculture and Natural resource: He requested that an MoU be signed with districts before the start of project implementation.

A/ REMA DDG: He clarified that MoUs will be signed prior to the project implementation to define roles, responsibilities and modalities and confirmed that technical meetings precede MoU signing for detailed planning. Moreover, he reiterated that we would continue to adhere to the existing regulations that the new project will be implemented within existing frameworks. He suggested the integration of new districts into project platforms especially technical meeting and knowledge sharing before implementation starts.

Additional District Inputs
Q/ Districts representatives have emphasized on community-based approaches, capacity building, and learning from Green Amayaga I to improve impact and sustainability. Additionally, they suggested leveraging on existing studies on forest management for this project implementation.

A/ REMA DDG: He ensured that baseline and feasibility studies will consider existing frameworks and interventions to guide project planning.

5. Closing remarks

The management of REMA thanked all participants, especially district representatives and government institutions for their participation. They acknowledged the strong ownership and success of Green Amayaga I and re-emphasized the importance of visibility of project impacts. They mentioned that the main objective of the meeting was endorsement that has been granted and proposed holding the technical meetings in November for detailed planning.

UNDP appreciated participants for endorsing the project and highlighted the importance of timely technical meetings to finalize district-level planning. UNDP will work closely with REMA to fast-track the processes leading to early start of the project implementation as many participants suggested.
Finally, UNDP reaffirmed its commitment to supporting implementation of this project and promoting environment and climate change adaptation for development.

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The meeting was adjourned at 12.30 pm

Approved by

Chair

DocuSigned by:
Fatmata Lovetta Sesay
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Fatmata Lovetta Sesay
Resident Representative/UNDP Rwanda

Co-Chair

Juliet Kabera
Director General/REMA

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Attendance List – Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) Meeting for the LDCF IV Project: *Building Community Resilience and Transforming Livelihoods through Systems-based Adaptation and Integrated Resource Management in Rwanda's Southern Province*"

Nr	Name of Participants	Sex (F/M)	Institution	Position	Email/Telephone	Signature
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4.	Vicky Ruganzu	M	RAB	Program Coordinator ISFM Program	0788562938	
5.	Jean Paul Bwabwogoza	M	RFA	SDIU Coordinator	0788455110	
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