

SAVE ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE (SEI)



ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024



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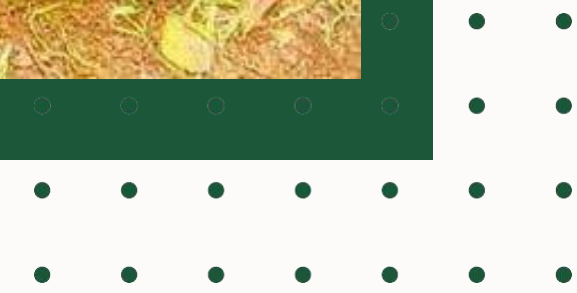
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01 Executive Director's Message

Dear Partners,

As we embark on the fourth year since the inception of the Save Environment Initiative (SEI), I am proud to report on the progress and impact we have achieved through our dedicated efforts. The cornerstone of our program remains TECY, which stands for Tree Planting, Environmental awareness, Clean energy and Youth and Women Engagement.

In 2023 - 2024, our projects touched two program sectors which are Tree planting and environmental awareness. Our commitment to tree planting has contributed to biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration. Trees are not just a symbol of life; they are essential for sustaining our planet's health. Through various educational campaigns and outreach programs, we have successfully raised awareness about pressing environmental issues by empowering individuals with knowledge to fostering a culture of sustainability.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our supporters, volunteers, partners, and stakeholders who have stood by us in our mission to protect our environment. Together, we can make a difference and create a sustainable world for generations to come.

Sincerely,




Concorde KUBWIMANA
Executive Director



Concorde KUBWIMANA
Executive Director

He is an Environmental Economist with a Bachelor's degree of Environmental Science in Environmental Management and Conservation, and a Master's degree in Environmental Sciences and Development with Specialization on Environmental Economics and Natural Resources Management.

02 Our Team



**Concorde
KUBWIMANA**
Executive Director



**Josiane
NIYONSENGA**
Programs Manager



**JNepomuscene
NIZEYIMANA**
Administrative and
Finance Manager



**Carlène
BUKURU**
Secretary
General



**MANIRUMVA
ISHIMWE Clement**
Content creator &
Communications



**UWASE Faída
Zoubeda**
Resources Mobiliser

03 OUR STORY

Save Environment Initiative (SEI) is a 2020-founded NGO committed to both environmental conservation and social integration. Our mission is deeply rooted in the belief that the collaborative efforts of today's youth can be the catalyst for transformative change, paving the way toward a better, healthier, and more sustainable world for present and future generations.

We are legally registered with the Rwanda Governance Board (RGB) with registration Certificate No. 923/RGB/NGO/LP/09/2023.

Our commitment is firmly rooted in fostering a generation that is not only well-informed about environmental challenges but is also proficient in taking proactive measures to address them. Through education, workshops, and practical experiences, we empower young individuals to understand, adapt to, and mitigate the effects of a changing climate. By instilling resilience, we are nurturing a generation capable of withstanding environmental shocks and contributing to sustainable solutions

Its commitment to equipping the upcoming generation with essential skills is driven by the understanding that they are the stewards of our planet's future. By providing them with knowledge, practical experience, and a sense of purpose, we are cultivating a framework of environmentally conscious leaders who will shape a more sustainable world. Through these initiatives, we are sowing the seeds of positive change and ensuring that the youth are well-prepared to address the environmental challenges of tomorrow with confidence and competence.



04 Our Approaches

Community Engagement and Participation

Research and Education

02



SEI develops community-based programs that encourage active participation in environmental conservation activities.

01



Conducting scientific research to understand environmental issues, their causes, and potential solutions.

We Collaborate

03



By forming partnerships, sharing resources, and coordinating efforts, organizations leverage collective expertise and resources to address complex environmental challenges more effectively.

We Innovate

We work towards implementing innovative technologies and practices that minimize resource consumption, reduce pollution, and promote eco-friendly alternatives.

04

05 OUR WORK

06

The overall program of SEI is called **TECY**:

- Tree planting
- Environment awareness
- Clean energy and water
- Youth and women Engagement



1. TREE PLANTING

07



The Launch of **BA AHATOSHYE Project,
To promote Environmental Responsibility
through Green Initiatives.**

BA AHATOSHYE PROJECT

On 20th October 2023 , Save Environment Initiative (SEI) launches BA AHATOSHYE project which is aimed at promoting environmental responsibility and encouraging green initiatives in the GS Rugarama and neighbouring communities in Ruhuha Sector, Bugesera District.

Bugesera district has had to face prolonged and repeated drought since 1998 , the direct consequences of which have been food insecurity and massive population movements.



Changing climatic conditions has been associated with declining food crop production due to low moisture content. The EICV5 shows that Bugesera district is most affected by poverty with a rate of 40 . 3 % compared to national poverty rate of 38 . 2 % while extreme poverty is 17 , 8 % against 16 % at national level (NISR, 2018). Eco- Forest platform, has been used to enable us to track tree growth.



To adapt agriculture to local climate vulnerability, the district prioritized the development of climate smart agriculture, tree planting and awareness and campaign specifically for youth and community mainly focusing on climate resisting species in the line of combating climate effect. The project will focus on equipping students with critical thinking, problem- solving, and decision- making skills on environmental topics, fostering a collective response to climate change and advancing the sustainable development agenda.

OBJECTIVES OF BA AHATOSHYE

01

Empowering students with critical thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making skills on environmental topics.

**02**

Engaging young people, students, policymakers, and practitioners in discussions on climate change dynamics and their role in addressing the issue.

**03**

Developing environmental responsibility among students and the community through green initiatives.



BA AHATOSHYE project is implemented through a series of workshops, seminars, and practical activities. These activities are designed to engage students and the community in various environmental initiatives, such as tree planting, waste management, and energy conservation.



The workshops and seminars aim to foster critical thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making skills among students by presenting them with real-life environmental challenges. Participants are encouraged to discuss and debate the issues, develop potential solutions, and share their experiences.

Expected Outcomes Increased awareness and understanding of environmental issues among students and the community. Enhanced critical thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making skills among students on environmental topics. Greater participation of students and the community in green initiatives and environmental conservation activities. For more photos: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAZDKU>



II. Environmental Awareness



On 13th July 2023, SEI team along with district, sector and school officials, embarked on a mission to empower the next generation Rugarama GS of environmental stewards.

GS Rugarama, is a school nestled in Bugesera district's, Ruhuha sector, teeming with 7,000 students between the ages of 7 and 17. This environmental awareness campaign aimed to equip these young minds with the knowledge and tools needed to become champions for our planet.



The campaign kicked off with a powerful message from Mr James Twagirakamuka, Director of Finance at GS Rugarama. He warmly welcomed SEI and emphasized the crucial role the organization was playing in shaping the future. His words resonated deeply, highlighting the immense potential young people hold: "Youth are the foundation of change," he declared. "They are the ones who will craft climate conservation actions and define the world's approach to environmental protection." This impactful opening speech underscored the significance of empowering the youth to become active participants in safeguarding our environment.

Following the impactful opening address, the SEI team dove deeper into the heart of the campaign. Mr. Concorde KUBWIMANA, Executive Director of SEI, took the stage to elucidate the organization's values, mandate, and overall mission. He provided a clear explanation of ecosystems and their vital components, ensuring the students grasped the delicate balance that sustains our planet. Mr. Kubwimana then outlined the goals of SEI's presence at GS Rugarama, specifically introducing the "BA AHATOSHYE" project.





Mrs. Josiane Niyonsenga, SEI's Programs Manager, built upon this foundation by engaging the young generation in a captivating exploration of the environment itself.

She clarified the very meaning of "environment" for the students, and then delved into the actions that contribute to environmental degradation. More importantly, Mrs. Niyonsenga empowered the students with knowledge and practical examples of environmental conservation and protection strategies. To further emphasize individual responsibility, she highlighted specific actions everyone can take.

This included advocating for every family to plant trees around their homes, a simple yet, powerful step towards a greener future. Additionally, she emphasized the importance of capacity building, particularly for the school's environmental clubs. These student-led groups would become environmental champions, equipped to train others within their communities. Finally, Mrs. Niyonsenga underscored the collective effort needed for the "BA AHATOSHYE" project, urging students to contribute to planting 2,500 fruit and agroforestry tree species within the vicinity of GS Rugarama.



Mrs Josiane NIYONSENGA
The Programs Manager of SEI



The awareness culminated in a fun and engaging quiz on environmental knowledge. This interactive activity solidified the learning gained throughout the day while rewarding the top five performers.



This clever approach further underscored the connection between the young generation and the environment.

The closing remarks were delivered by the Forest and Nature Resources Officer from Ruhuha Sector, representing the district authority. He emphasized the enduring value and importance of the environment in our daily lives and livelihoods. Expressing his gratitude to SEI for the well-organized event, he encouraged the young participants to embrace the responsibility of planting agroforestry trees back home, ultimately becoming ambassadors of environmental awareness within their communities.

For more pictures click on:
<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAZDKU>

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The campaign successfully ignited a spark within the hearts and minds of GS Rugarama's students, empowering them to become active stewards of the environment and inspiring them to take concrete action for a sustainable future. Watch the full event via [on this link:](https://youtu.be/pZW6KxmQU30?si=QtUs1A02h4LReFr6)

<https://youtu.be/pZW6KxmQU30?si=QtUs1A02h4LReFr6>

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06 KNOWLEDGE SHARING

Plastic Waste Management in Rwanda



Workshop aimed at training future managers of Lake Kivu,

On May 23, 2024, the Save Environment Initiative (SEI) conducted a pivotal presentation regarding plastic waste management in Rwanda. This event was part of the ARCOS Network's workshop aimed at training future managers of Lake Kivu, focusing specifically on the environmental challenges posed by plastic pollution in this vital ecosystem.



The workshop took place in the districts of Karongi and Rutsiro, both of which are strategically important for environmental conservation efforts due to their proximity to Lake Kivu. The session was designed to raise awareness about plastic pollution and engage local youth in proactive measures to combat this pressing issue.



Mr. Concorde KUBWIMANA, SEI's Executive Director

The primary objectives of the presentation were:

- To inform participants about the current state of plastic pollution in Lake Kivu and its implications for biodiversity and local communities.
- To empower young individuals by highlighting their critical role in addressing plastic waste management
- To foster discussions around innovative strategies that can be implemented at both community and policy levels to mitigate plastic pollution.



During the presentation, key topics were addressed:

- An overview of how plastic waste has accumulated in Lake Kivu, including statistics on types and sources of plastics found.
- Discussion on how plastic pollution affects aquatic life and overall ecosystem health within Lake Kivu.
- Emphasis on how young people can lead initiatives such as clean-up campaigns, educational outreach programs, and advocacy for sustainable practices.
- Sharing successful case studies from other regions that have effectively tackled similar issues through community engagement and policy changes.



Participants were divided into groups to exchange their take away messages

The following outcomes were noted from the presentation:

Increased awareness among participants about the severity of plastic pollution in Lake Kivu and a commitment from participants to initiate local clean-up projects.

Recommendations moving forward include:

Establishing a follow-up program to monitor progress made by youth-led initiatives, developing partnerships with local businesses to reduce single-use plastics and organizing regular workshops focused on sustainable practices for waste management.



Following the presentation, participants engaged in a practical clean-up activity along the shores of Lake Kivu. This hands-on experience allowed attendees to apply what they learned during the session while contributing directly to improving their environment. The clean-up not only served as an immediate action against pollution but also fostered a sense of community responsibility among participants.



We encouraged trainees to remove plastic bottles from the lake

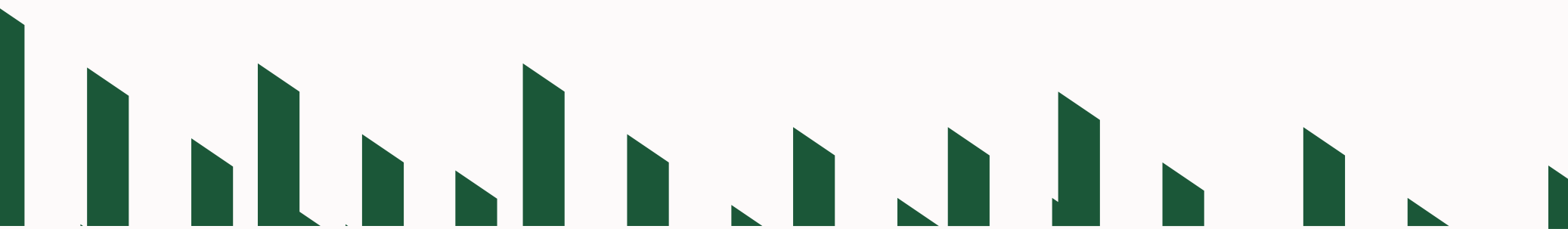
“70/30 - Democracy’s Race Against the Climate Crisis”



On November 17, 2023, at 5:00 PM, the Denmark Project Office in Kigali hosted a screening of the Danish documentary film “70/30 - Democracy’s Race Against the Climate Crisis” as part of the EU Film Festival 2023 (#EUFF2023). The event aimed to raise awareness about climate change and inspire action among attendees, particularly focusing on the role of youth in environmental advocacy.



The documentary follows the transformative journey of two young Danish activists, Esther Michelsen Kjeldahl and Selma de Montgomery. Their efforts have significantly influenced groundbreaking climate laws in Denmark. The film highlights their challenges and triumphs, showcasing how grassroots activism can lead to substantial policy changes. It serves as a powerful narrative that underscores the urgency of addressing climate issues and encourages viewers to engage in environmental sustainability.



The film conveys critical messages:

- **Urgency of Action:** It emphasizes that immediate action is necessary to combat climate change effectively.
- **Empowerment through Activism:** The story illustrates how individuals, especially youth, can drive significant change through activism.
- **Collective Responsibility:** It calls upon individuals, communities, and governments to prioritize environmental sustainability and take meaningful steps toward mitigating climate impacts.

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- **Collective Responsibility:** It calls upon individuals, communities, and governments to prioritize environmental sustainability and take meaningful steps toward mitigating climate impacts.



Following the screening, a panel discussion was held focusing on the role of Rwandan youth in combating climate change. The discussion featured prominent voices from various sectors, including Save Environment Initiative (SEI)'s Executive Director. Key points from the discussion included:

The importance of youth engagement in environmental policies.

Strategies for mobilizing young people around climate issues.

Examples of successful youth-led initiatives within Rwanda.



SEI's ED with INES RUHENGARI Students

On November 25, 2023, the Save Environment Initiative (SEI) collaborated with university students from INES Ruhengeri to participate in a tree planting initiative. This event was officially launched by Roots and Shoots Rwanda, an organization dedicated to fostering environmental stewardship among youth. The initiative aims to promote sustainability and raise awareness about the importance of trees in combating climate change and enhancing biodiversity.



The event commenced with an opening ceremony where representatives from SEI and Roots and Shoots Rwanda addressed the participants. They emphasized the importance of collective action in addressing environmental challenges.

Following the speeches, students were divided into groups, each assigned specific areas for planting trees.

World Wetlands Day 2024



On February 2, 2024, the Save Environment Initiative (SEI) collaborated with the Rwanda Youth Biodiversity Network and its partners to commemorate World Wetlands Day. This event took place in Rugenge wetland and included a clean up activity followed by youth talks at the University of Lay Adventists of Kigali (UNILAK). The overarching goal was to raise awareness about the significance of wetlands and to actively engage youth in conservation efforts.

The day began with a clean up activity in Rugenge wetland, where volunteers from SEI, the Rwanda Youth Biodiversity Network, and community members gathered to remove plastics waste from the wetland area. This approach contributed to the physical health of the ecosystem and served as a practical demonstration of environmental stewardship.



Following the cleanup, a series of discussions were held at UNILAK. The panel featured notable speakers, including SEI's Executive Director, who addressed an audience comprised mainly of students and young environmental advocates. The theme for this year's discussions was "Youth Engagement: Cornerstone for Interconnectedness Between Wetlands and Various Aspects of Human Health."



SEI paid tribute at Nyanza Genocide Memorial Site



On April 24, 2024, the Save Environment Initiative (SEI) organized a solemn tribute at the Nyanza Genocide Memorial Site as part of the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. This event was significant not only for honoring the innocent lives lost during this tragic period but also for reinforcing a commitment to unity and peace among the youth.

SEI aimed to engage young people in meaningful dialogue about reconciliation and sustainable development, emphasizing their role in shaping a peaceful future.



The tribute took place during the 100 days of commemoration, which is a period observed annually in Rwanda to remember and reflect on the events of 1994.





Save it, it will save you back

SAVE ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE (SEI)

09 Financial Statement 2023-2024

Financial statement in Rwandan francs

INCOME

Fund	6,187,500
Member contributions	4,840,000
Total	11,018,500

EXPENDITURES

Personnel and program costs	4,400,000
Operating Costs	5,600,000
Total Program costs	10,850,000


VARIANCE

168,500



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