



SAVE ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE

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Save it, it will save you back

PROGRESS REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2022-2023



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1. ABOUT US

Save Environment Initiative (SEI) is a Non-Governmental Organization initiated in 2020. Overall goal is to enhance ecosystem restoration and build climate resilience directly contributing to sustainable livelihoods development.

We work closely with our local and international partners to carry out friendly environmental activities and provide tree seedlings, quality information and technical advice to local authorities, institutions in order to raise an environmentally conscious society of people working for the healthy planet and sustainable development.

Vision

Our vision is to inform, engage and mobilize young generations to strive for healthier environment

Mission

Our Mission is constantly promoting and conserve nature resource by upholding climate justice for sustainable economic development.



2. ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONOMYS

SEI: Save Environment Initiative

REMA: Rwanda Environment and Management Authority

MoE: Ministry of Environment

UNILAK: University of Lay Adventists of Kigali

Mr.: Mister

Ms: Miss

CHOGM: Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

MEAs: Multilateral Environmental Agreements

CoEB: Center of Excellence in Biodiversity

NRM: Natural Resource Management

Prof.: Professor

UNDP: United Nations for Development Program

IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature

PS: Permanent Secretary

YALTA: Youth and Agroecology Business and Learning Track in Africa



3. ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

3.1 Definition

Ecosystem restoration is the process of actively intervening in and restoring ecosystems and habitats that have been negatively impacted by human activity.

3.2 Community Engagement

. On 26th March 2023, SEI in partnership with Isaro Econext planted trees in Mpamba cell, Runda Sector in Kamonyi District where 500 grevelia rubosta were planted and the progress of these trees will be monitored digitally.



Technology is a tool that's going to help us fight climate change.

Let's Digitalize Our Trees

● Scan QR code



📍 Get current location

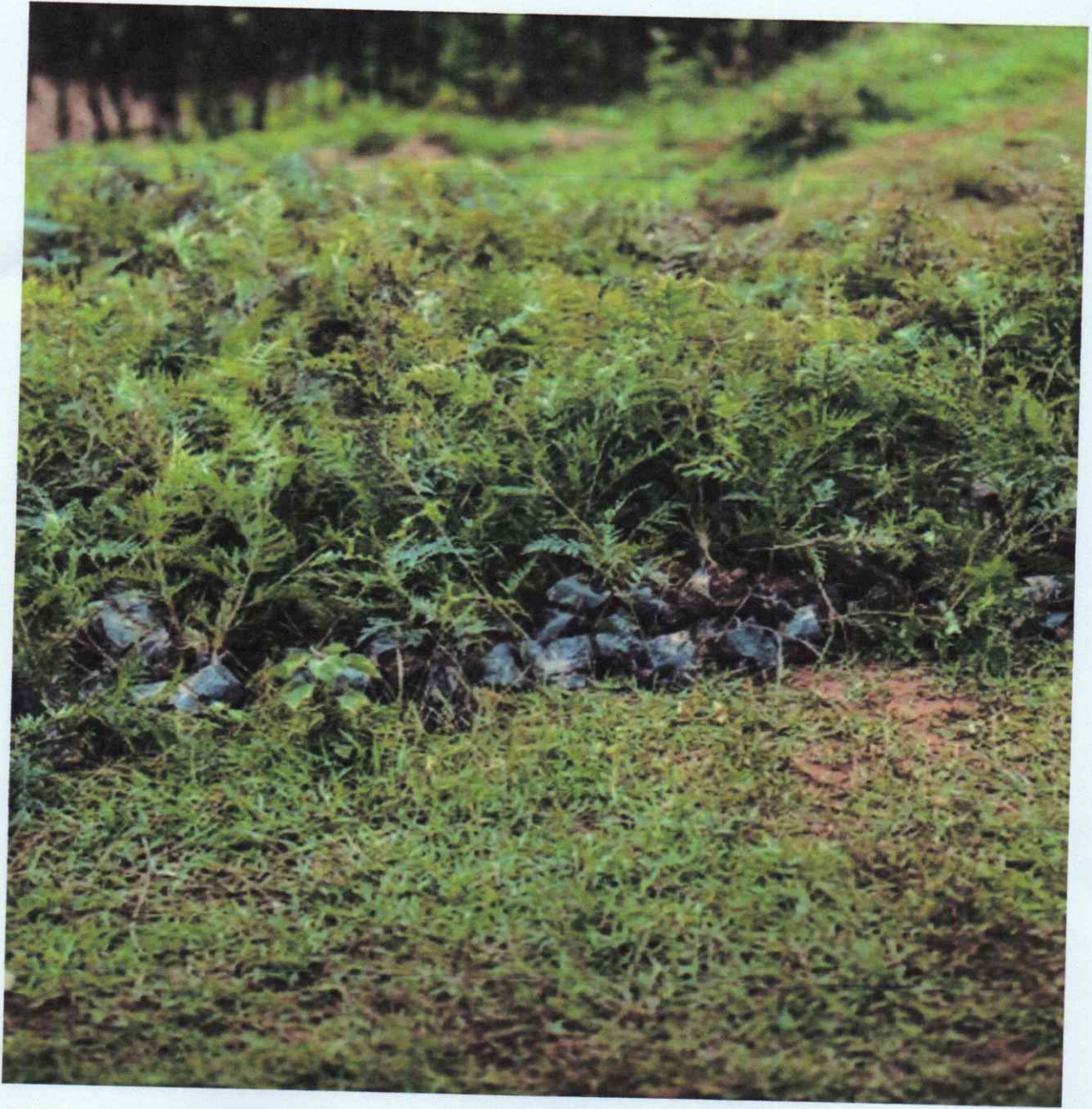
📷 Upload your tree picture



SI-UP-Tree-001

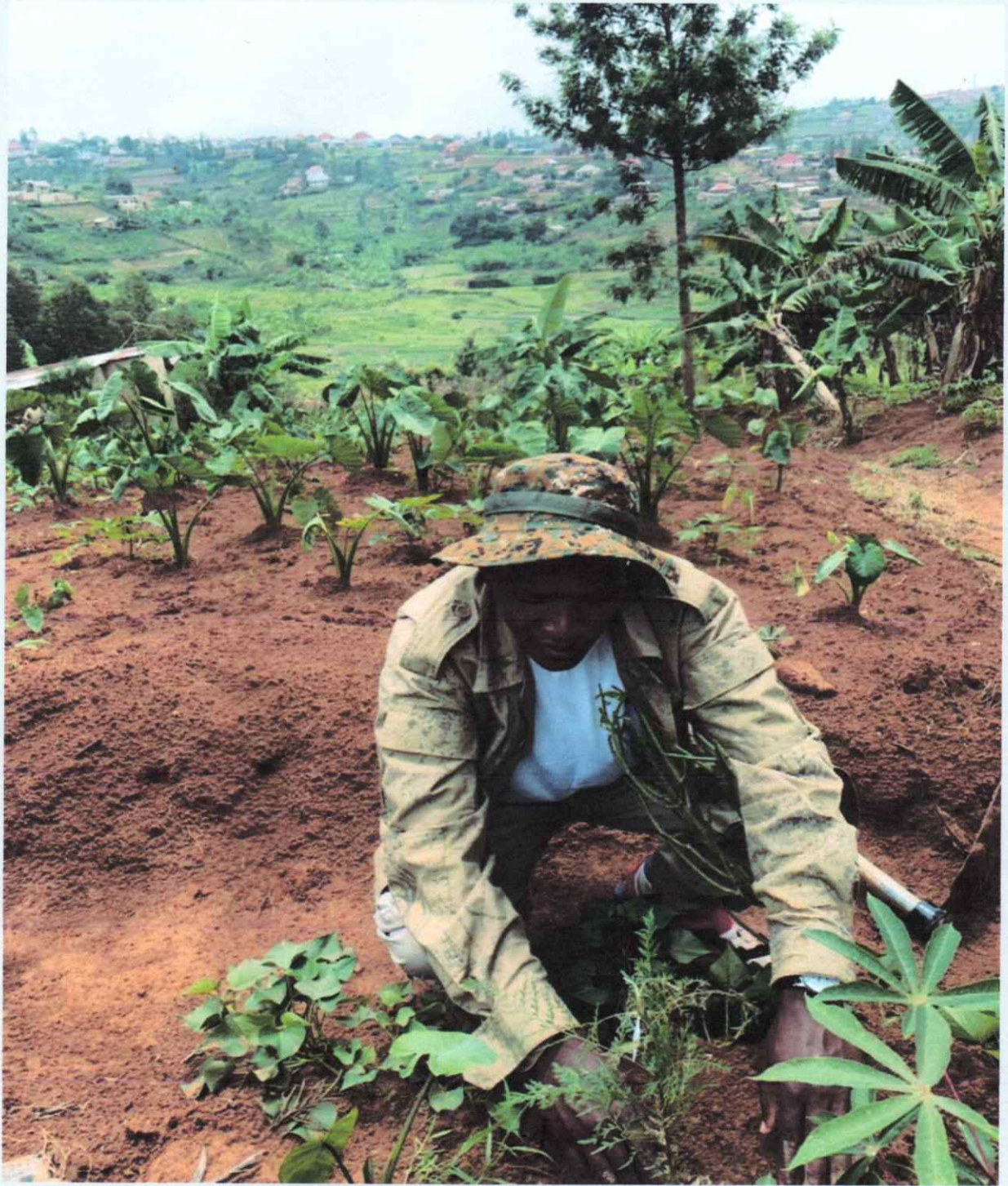
Progress of these trees will be monitored digitally.





300 trees were planted at Mamba cell in Kamonyi District





Executive Director/SEI



On 26th Nov.2022, SEI in collaboration with Green Goal Rwanda Initiative, Gasabo District planted 3,000 native trees species for land restoration of 7ha under theme: "Restoring degraded land is everyone's responsibility". These trees were planted at Uwaruraza site, Bumbogo sector.



The native trees that are planted are:

-Maesa lanceolata



-Entada abyssinica

-Albizia adianthifolia

-Erythrina abyssinica

On 25th Jan 2023, SEI in its partnership with Beyond the Gorillas Experience planted agroforestry trees (Mesopsis) at Kinigi Sector, Musanze District





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3.3 Community activity (Umuganda)

On 26th March 2022, SEI team joined Gisenyi Sector, Rubavu District in community activity known as Umuganda at the Commune Rouge genocide commemoration site where they cleaned bushes, watch the video on this link: <https://fb.watch/koxU5D-97Z/?mibextid=CDWPTG>



SEI's team at Commune Rouge commemoration site after community work (Umuganda), Rubavu March 2022

On 26 Nov.2022 SEI joined Bralirwa Plc, REMA and Ministry of Environment on Umuganda. They planted Textilis and polymorpha bamboos alongside Rwampara river crossing to Rugunga wetland.



Deputy Director General of REMA, Staff of Bralirwa Plc and Executive Director of SEI before starting Umuganda, Nyarugenge Nov.2022





***Minister of Environment and participants after Umuganda work,
Nyarugenge Nov.2022***



1.3 FRUIT SEEDLINGS DISTRIBUTION

Fruit trees allow efficient utilization of resources including land, water, labor and agricultural inputs resulting in higher income per unit of available resource while maintaining and developing the natural resource base. Fruits can contribute a lot towards the diversification of the national economy and can provide the basis for the establishment of agro industry factories, contributing to the transformation of the agriculture sector.

In this regards, on 11th September 2022 SEI reestablished a tree nursery of improved seedlings which are mangoes, oranges, Citrus and Avocadoes.





SEI member is watering citrus that are in tubing bags (Sept. 2022)



A fruit nursery is importantly needed to be established for following reasons:

- Improved fruit trees are obtained
- Fruit trees suitable to the local climate are produced
- Local population get employed and income is generated

In the nursery, fruit plants are cared during their early stages of growth to provide optimum condition for germination and subsequent growth until seedlings are ready for grafting and strong enough to be planted out in their permanent field.

The basic requirements for seedlings are substrates, light, temperature and moisture.

Seedlings require protection from severe heat of the sun, heavy rain, drought and diseases.

Thus, preparing them in the nursery requires some measures to optimize those factors.

Generally, the site that will be identified for the establishment of the nursery will have the following features: gently flat land where continuous supply of clean water is possible, free from any strong winds, well drained, fertile and light to medium textured soil, the site should be outside the range of the roots and shade of trees, should be near to the site of planting, the road and the local labor, should be free from flooding as fruit tree seedlings do not tolerate water logging conditions.

Major considerations during the establishment and management will include good site selection, clearing, digging, land and seedbed preparation, sowing and mulching, watering, shade construction, weeding, grafting and hardening off.







These trees will be distributed to the community of Bugesera District for climate change resilience.

Fruit trees allow efficient utilization of resources including land, water, labor and agricultural inputs resulting in higher income per unit of available resource while maintaining and developing the natural resource base. Fruits can contribute a lot towards the diversification of the national economy and can provide the basis for the establishment of agro industry factories, contributing to the transformation of the agriculture sector. Fruit consumption is increasingly on demand and will definitely continue to grow as the population is now aware of the importance of fruit consumption and as long as the purchasing power of some people is increasing. However, the production and the

productivity of fruit crops need to be improved if we need to meet the increasing demand of consumers.

For this, need of a modern fruit production is required and it will be dependent on the knowledge of the producers. It needs a skilled farmer, technically competent so as to respond quickly to the market and production demands.

4. SERVICE IN COLLECTING DATA ACROSS THE COUNTRY FOR THE PLASTIC WEB PORTAL

From 09th to 27th March 2022 in collaboration with Global Growth Green Institute (GGGI), High Commission of United Kingdom in Rwanda contributed on data collection in Rwanda secondary cities, Kamonyi and Bugesera Districts to generate better data on plastic wastes, the different types of quantities, the location of plastic waste which is a fundamental step to encourage more circular waste solutions and this web portal was launched on 30th March 2022.



SEI's members during data collection at Rubavu Landfill, Rubavu March 2022

4.1 Main Plastics waste in Secondary Cities of Rwanda

Among many plastic waste we have in Rwanda, plastic bottles are dominated in all landfills and dumpsites of secondary cities. As population is increasing waste are also being increased and there is mismanagement of different landfills and dumpsites due to that unexpected high quantity of solid municipal waste. The figure below shows clearly the main insides of the landfill and how they are disposed. There are many varieties of plastics used in production of different products including food packaging, water and juice bottles and different medical materials and devices. All these varieties of plastics have negative effects in both productions stage and usage.

The manufacturing process of plastic products in plastic industries releases a huge quantity of dangerous gaseous chemicals into the air including carbon monoxide, dioxin, and hydrogen cyanide. These gases pollute air seriously. The presence of these gases in air at high proportion is detrimental to both human and animal health. They may cause respiratory diseases, nervous system disorders and reduction in immunity to diseases. Chlorinated plastic can release harmful chemicals into the surrounding soil, which can then seep into groundwater or other surrounding water sources and also the ecosystem. This can cause serious harm to the species that drink the water. Landfill areas contain many different types of plastics. In these landfills, there are many microorganisms which speed up the biodegradation of plastics. The microorganisms include bacteria such as Pseudomonas, nylon-eating bacteria, and Flavobacteria. When biodegradable plastics are broken down, methane is released, which is a very powerful greenhouse gas that contributes significantly to global warming (Biello 2013).

Apart from the above impacts, some scientists believe that the bobbing bits of polymer in the oceans could contribute to global warming by creating a shaded canopy that makes it harder for plankton to grow.

This survey has been conducted in all secondary cities, Bugesera and Kamonyi Districts of Rwanda where the purpose was to records the plastic waste present in different parts of these cities including landfills, dumpsites and commercial areas where plastics can be dropped, Wastebase application had been used to scan those plastic bottles.

26,217 of bottles had been scanned in 6 countries, Tanzania, Kenya, Zambia, Mozambique and Malawi. This report indicates that Beverage contributes more waste in the sample than all other sectors, at 94.6% which means soft drinks, drinking water and other small alcoholic beverages. Particularly in Rwanda, about 13,452 of bottles were scanned in all secondary cities, Kamonyi and Bugesera Districts of Rwanda in different parts we



mentioned above, (Unwaste.io, 2022). This shows that it is everyone responsibility to fight plastic pollution and we should normalize the process of recycling because we have a big quantity of plastic that must be recycled and managed in appropriate ways.

4.2 Plastic waste disposal and management in Rwanda

Rwanda is now working hard to reduce the quantity of plastic waste and is also playing a big role in banning unnecessary uses of plastic materials. In 2019 Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) published guidelines on procedures and conditions for eligibility to grant exceptional permission to manufacture, use or sells any plastic items in single-use plastics, this means that these single-use plastics are prohibited. It is a good approach for the government of Rwanda to tackle all the issues that might be caused plastics waste and it is also a good way to the effective management.

Rwanda realized how single-use plastics and plastic-carry bags, the global pollutants that clog water drainage systems, oceans and kill marine life and how they also contribute to flooding and low agricultural yield productivity by preventing water penetration into the soil, this led to the total ban of polyethylene shopping bags in 2008 and manufacturing, importation and use of other plastics became prohibited and on September 2nd, 2021, Rwanda joined Peru in proposing an international legally binding agreement to combat plastic waste, (Afadhali, 2022).

The success of Rwanda in reducing single-use plastics come from countrywide campaigns especially in Kigali and secondary cities where many industrial and business activities are being carried out, these campaigns aimed to educate people about the impacts of plastic on biodiversity, human health and community development and government supports local businesses that started the process of producing environmental friendly products to use instead of plastics and this serves as reusable alternatives. Though there are good approaches and guidelines to reduce and ban plastics waste, the gaps are also there, in waste disposal, people are still mixing biodegradable and non-biodegradable materials, some secondary cities are using open space as a landfill, this is a big problem because the management of waste collected either plastics or other materials is very difficult and it affects the community around and also entire ecosystem. As we visited all the landfills of secondary cities, the common observation is that Landfills have become challenging to manage, and companies in charge of management still rely on old technology to reduce and recycle waste. Another big issue is that many of our daily activities today involve he creation of waste, this is a problem because waste are being disposed very inefficiently every day and it is a big task for the companies to collect and manage the process of waste disposal, based also on the landfills which are not appropriate and modern the



issue become worse. The figures below show the landfill of Muhanga District where it is in open space without any protection.



Landfill of Muhanga District, March 2022

4.3 Recommendations

Emerging trends in waste plastic management should be considered and researched to widen the range of recycling options. This will improve the economic benefits of recycling as well as the viability and sustainability of plastic waste management especially in the construction and manufacturing industries here in Rwanda.

It is possible to replicate all the technologies involved in the processes of plastic waste recycling, especially in the East African region by encouraging Research in Recycling process and build capacity of Researchers. Universities should encourage research in plastic waste recycling, establish workshops and materials-testing laboratories. Inter-university exchanges, especially with advanced and recognized universities should be encouraged. The large volume of materials required for construction offers a potentially major area and attraction for reuse in other sectors outside construction, public awareness should be promoted and financial support should be provided to the startups industries and other environmental friendly activities. Capacity building among the Companies in charge of collecting domestic waste, the use of plastics comes with many harmful environmental impacts related to their production and poor methods of waste treatment. There should be a clear linkage between these companies in charge of collection and recycling process. Not only a linkage but also capacity, common understanding of plastic waste management, skills and techniques needed in collection and recycling process. This should also go in hands with household's management, because people are still mixing



biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste, most of households refuse to pay fees of domestic waste collection! This is a journey where government should also acts in terms of law enforcement and establishment of policies aimed to protect sovereignty of these companies and their employees, which will positively affect management of plastic waste and other domestic waste in general.

Also National governments should engage with the various stakeholders in the decision-making process, research shows that friendly and other voluntary agreement can positively influence the use of single use plastics rather than enforcing bans. There are many initiatives and different organizations here in Rwanda with the alternative ways to use in reducing and banning single plastic use, including alternative packages and other voluntary agreements. Collaboration among these various organizations, institutions and National Government is a way forward to end single-use plastic consumption.

As plastic waste is cross boundaries issue we should also have a trans-boundary governance to solve this problem of single-use plastic consumption. The East African Community should develop and harmonize regional laws and enhance regional cooperation by taking measures to support the elimination of manufacturing and illicit trade of plastic bags across borders.

4.4 Conclusion

Problem of landfill management does not affect the cleanliness of Rwanda is still cleaner and a country which promotes environmental conditions, even though there are different problems in waste disposal and management at landfill sites but Kigali has been awarded as the cleanest City in Africa, (Norbert, 2021). As a developing country, it is always a task for Rwanda to be a 100% free from plastics but the alternative measures have been taken seriously such as Reduce, Reuse and Recycle principles, they are now generating sustainable solutions to the different environmental issues. Green jobs are being created and commitment of the country towards environmental protection and management is at high level. The Rwandan experience inspires other countries and every Rwandan feels this national pride and the public is aware of how plastics and other waste are harmful to human life and ecosystem in general. Rwanda hosted the 26th Commonwealth Heads of Government



Meeting, many delegates from different countries confirm that this CHOGM 2022 was the greenest CHOGM ever! This meeting was a single-use plastics free meeting because glass bottled water and water dispensers had been used, also electric cars and bus had been used to reduce the transmission of greenhouse gases. Rwanda continues leadership of promoting green economy and encouraging everyone's participation in building climate resilience.



During CHOGM Delegates were served water in glass bottles, Kigali 2022

With the combined effort of cleaning Kigali and other secondary cities, the public and the government are vital to this issue of plastic waste, through different campaigns government alerts the public the dangers related to plastic waste and sanctions related to the use of these plastics waste together with the follow up of law enforcement concerning waste management. This will go a long way in ensuring green cities and promoting projects with minimal effect to the environment and other environmental friendly activities.



5. ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE EDUCATION

Education is crucial to promote climate action. It aids individuals in comprehending and addressing the effects of the climate catastrophe by equipping them with the information, know-how, values, and attitudes necessary to engage as change agents.

5.1 Radio talk shows on different topics related to Environment and climate change awareness at Radio IMANZI (105.1FM) and Radio& TV10 (96.7FM)

On 03rd June 2022, SEI and REMA were at Radio& TV10 in ZINDUKA talk show, This talk comes back to the theme of the World Environment Day: “Only one Earth, let’s protect it” and the role of youth in environmental protection.

You can watch a full talk show via on this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/mjr1goBK770?feature=share>



UWASE Faida Zoubeda, Deputy Executive Director/SEI and Jean Luc RUKWAYA Environment climate change Education officer/REMA

On 09th Sept 2022: SEI were at Radio Imanzi (105.1FM), Where we talked about climate change resilience, role of international agreements in reducing climate change, Inclusivity in climate actions and our contributions in climate change mitigation. You can watch a full talk show via on this link: <https://youtu.be/O1jtpO7v3M>





Guests from SEI in the Studio of Radio Imanzi

On 19th Sept. 2022: We talked about The role of youth to mitigate forests destruction and what should be done to solve this issue sustainably.

“The UN report 2021 shows that the livelihoods of 1.2 billion of people depend on forests, 80% of terrestrial life is their habitat. Forests absorb 2billion tons of CO2 annually, 75% of fresh water we use available because of forests. Sadly, at least 10million species of animals and plants are endangered every year due to human activities, it caused millions of species of animals and plants are on the way of being extinct” We indicated.



SEI during the talk show

What can be done to deal with this problem?



- Teaching children the importance of trees from kindergarten to University
- Increasing the campaign to protect trees in the community
- Using other materials that replace wood in construction (metal) and fuels (gas, biogas)

Watch the show through on this link: <https://youtu.be/DKN9kf4SA1s>

On 23rd Sept. 2022: We discussed The role of wetlands in our daily life and what we should do to conserve and preserve them.

Watch talk show on: <https://youtu.be/h17yqa4c5G8>



Mr. Concorde KUBWIMANA and Mr. ISHIMWE MANIRUMVA Clement in the studio of Radio IMANZI

On 07th Oct.2022, Program Manager of SEI and Senior Lecture at UNILAK, Mr. Josaphat KANYESHURI discussed the role of education in ecosystem restoration. You can watch the talk show on this link: <https://youtu.be/aNubMIJOi E>





Ms UWASE Faida Zoubeda and Lecture Josaphat KANYESHURI in the studio of Radio Imanzi

On 03rd Feb 2023, SEI in partnership with Beyond the Gorillas Experience made a field trip to the Gasura Kindergarten Kids to explain the importance of environment protection and what they should do as kids to protect it.



Kids of Gasura Kindergarten/Musanze during the field trip



6. CIVIC EDUCATION

As youth lead organization, we visited different sites in the country for learning our history.

On 01st May 2022, members of SEI visited the Kigali Genocide Memorial at Gisozi, paid respects to the victims of the Genocide against the Tutsis.





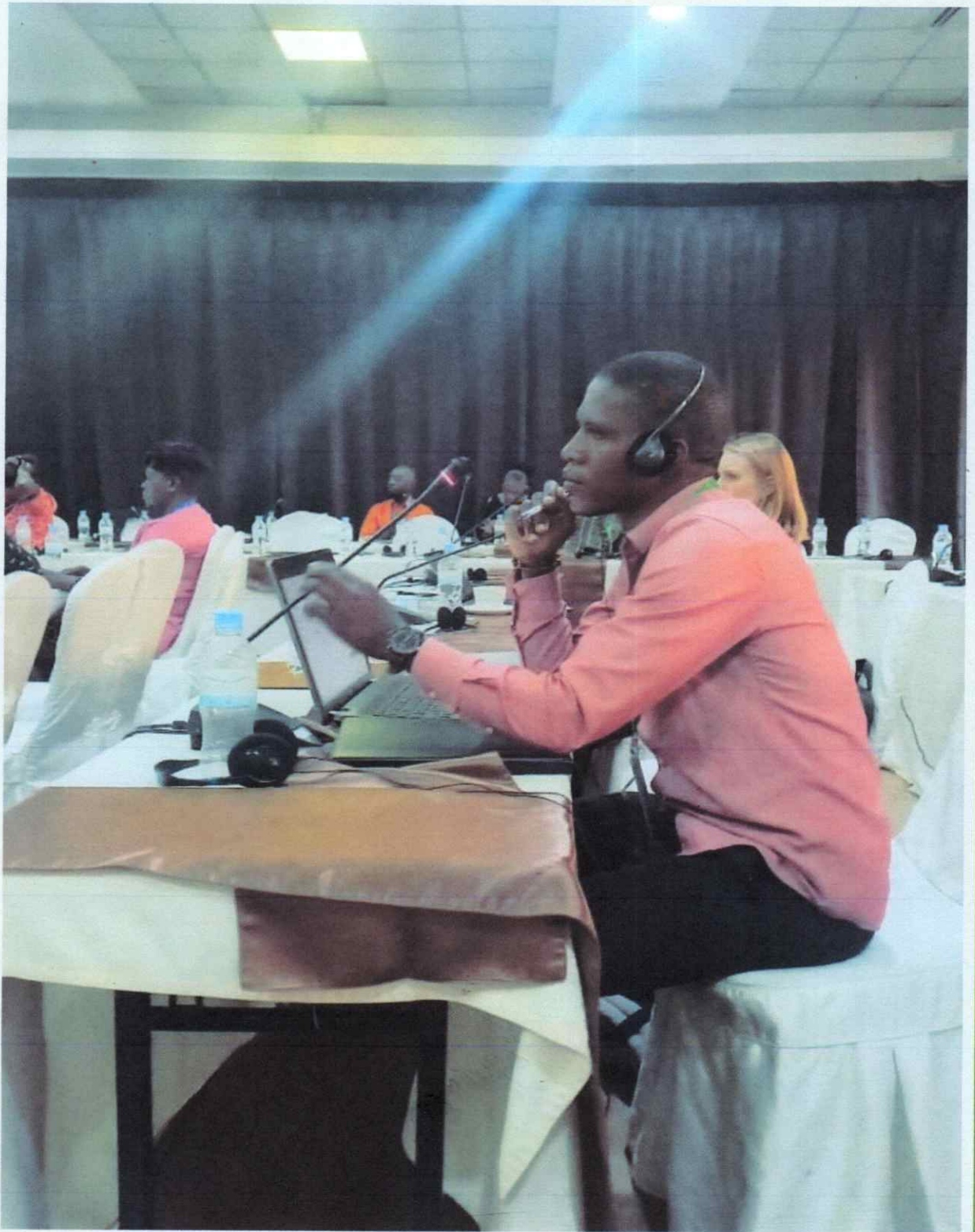
SEI Paid respects to the victims of the Genocide against the Tutsi at Gisozi, Gasabo May 2022





SEI was among the participants

- From June 22nd to 23rd 2022 SEI attended African youth Conference on climate Justice at the sidelines of Commonwealth Heads of states and Governments Conference with the theme: "The youth Aspirations for COP27 and beyond which held at La Palisse Hotel Nyamata.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, located below the circular logo.



Group photo(Nyamata, June 2022)

- On 15th July 2022: SEI attended workshop organized by We Do Green Organization at Kingfisher in Gicumbi District, it aims to galvanize the voice and actions of youth from different civil organizations, and youth-led partners and green eco start-ups.





- On 28th October 2022, SEI participated in the validation workshop of private sector mobilization strategy organized by REMA at Lemigo Hotel
- On 24th Aug.2022: SEI attended Integrated Agroecological systems, source of sustainable solutions in the face of climate shocks and stressors organized by Yalta Initiative at Ligue, Kacyiru and Field visits in Eastern province.
- On 13th Dec.2022, SEI participated to the Thematic Working Group 2022/2023 at Lemigo Hotel Organised by MoE.

Done at Kigali, on 05th May 2023

KUBWIMANA Concorde

Executive Director

