



Building the resilience of local communities to climate change in the Kivu-Rusizi and Lake Tanganyika basins, using community and ecosystem-based adaptation approaches

**Project countries:** Rwanda and Burundi  
**Project area:** Sebeya and Ruhwa Catchments  
**Project duration:** July 2018-December 2019  
**Donor:** The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

**Mining along Sebeya River contributes to its sedimentation through land degradation (erosion under heavy rainfall) and directly to river turbidity**

### What is the problem we aim to solve with this project?

There is severe river sedimentation: on one hand caused by non-sustainable mining along the river banks; and on the other hand, resulting from erosion during heavy rainfall seasons. The erosion is exacerbated by the steep slopes with some areas where agriculture is not coupled with erosion control measures.

### Why is Sebeya and Ruhwa Catchments targeted for this project?

Sebeya River is located in the North Western Rwanda. Its river system constitutes the Sebeya Catchment with an area of 364 km<sup>2</sup>. Before it empties into Lake Kivu, Sebeya River gets water from various tributaries, including those crossing a protected area "Gishwati National Park". There are also hydropower units along the river that are adversely impacted by sedimentation.

Ruhwa River is located in the South Western Rwanda, at the border between Rwanda and Burundi. The entire river system constitutes Ruhwa Catchment covering an area of 612 km<sup>2</sup>. The rivers flowing into Ruhwa River cross different landscapes, including two protected areas (Nyungwe and Kibira National Parks) and degraded agricultural habitats.



Sebeya River landscapes. Mining along and at the source of the river

## Project goal

Enhance climate change resilience, using community and ecosystem-based approaches and contribute to the landscape restoration in Kivu and Tanganyika Lakes basins.

## Project objectives

- a. To build the capacity of two local communities in Sebeya and Ruhwa Catchments, by helping them to understand their vulnerability and potential responses to climate change;
- b. To address the problems of river sedimentation, and thereby improving community livelihoods;
- c. To communicate the lessons learned and best practices to the Great Lakes Region stakeholders.



Ruhwa River at the boundary between Rwanda and Burundi

## Project partners and contacts

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