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RDIS Stakeholder Consultation Meeting Summary Report

Meeting Title: RDIS Stakeholder Consultation Meeting on the Revitalization of Lake Kivu Basin

Project: Revitalizing Lake Kivu Basin in Nyamasheke and Rusizi through Landscape Restoration

Funded By: TerraFund for AFR100

Location: Peace Guest House, Kamembe, Rusizi District

Date: 8th February 2024

Meeting Agenda:

1. Opening Devotion
2. Background and Objectives
3. Welcome Remarks by the Executive Director of RDIS
4. Keynote Presentation on the Revitalization Project
5. Open Discussion
6. Formulation of Actions and Recommendations

Highlights:

- ✓ **Opening Remarks:** The Executive Director of RDIS, Rev. Ntarindwa Viateur, emphasized the collective responsibility towards environmental stewardship, referencing Genesis 2:15.
- ✓ **Project Overview:** The Executive Director outlined the project's goals, including ecosystem preservation around Lake Kivu, emphasizing indigenous tree planting for climate resilience. Supported by TerraFund for AFR100, the initiative aims to

plant 320,450 trees across Nyamasheke and Rusizi districts, covering 860 hectares and generating over 159 jobs, particularly for women and youth.



- ✓ **Stakeholder Engagement:** Ange Kalitanyi Project Manager, representing One Tree Planted/TerraFund for AFR100, shared insights into the selection process for funded projects, highlighting the emphasis on tree planting, socioeconomic impact, and job creation. Jackson Ndera Portfolio specialist from the World Resources Institute introduced the Land Accelerator in Africa for Local project, encouraging profit organizations' participation in land restoration efforts.



- ✓ **Project Presentation:** Eric Bagenzi, RDIS Project Manager, detailed the project's framework, including establishing tree nurseries, raising environmental awareness, and enhancing biodiversity. The project is designed to address critical environmental issues like land degradation, deforestation, and biodiversity loss, with a strong focus on community engagement and sustainable livelihoods.



- ✓ **Open Discussion:** Key discussions revolved around the community's preference for economically valuable trees versus indigenous species, with stakeholders acknowledging the need to shift mindsets towards environmental sustainability. The discussion underscored the importance of integrating indigenous and fruit trees into the project to balance ecological benefits with economic incentives.
- ✓ **Closing Remarks:** The Executive Director thanked participants and reaffirmed RDIS's commitment to transparency and impactful reporting. The Mayor of Rusizi district expressed support and looked forward to the positive impacts of RDIS's initiatives.

Attendees:

Included Mayor of Rusizi district, JADF Officer Rusizi, Director of agriculture, environmental officers, sector executive secretaries from both Rusizi and Nyamasheke, forestry officers/agronomists from the sectors where the project is being implemented, CEO of Rwanda Action, representatives from Rwanda Environmental Management Authority (REMA), Rwanda Forestry Authority (RFA), One Acre Fund (Tubura), Rwanda National Police, EAR Cyangugu Diocese, TerraFund for AFR100, and RDIS staff.

Action Taken and Recommendation Formulation:

- 1. Adopt Agroforestry Practices:** It was agreed that the project would include agroforestry practices, blending economic benefits with environmental sustainability. This approach aims to make the project more appealing to the local community by demonstrating the direct benefits of participating in the project.
- 2. Education and Awareness Campaigns:** The stakeholders emphasized the importance of ongoing education and awareness campaigns to shift community preferences towards indigenous and fruit trees. RDIS committed to organizing workshops, seminars, and using media to disseminate information on the benefits of these species.
- 3. Strengthen Nursery and Tree Care:** RDIS will explore partnerships with local schools and cooperatives to ensure the sustainability of the tree nurseries and the long-term care of the planted trees. This approach aims to foster community ownership and involvement in the project.
- 4. Leverage Technology for Monitoring:** The project will incorporate GIS mapping for better monitoring and evaluation of the tree planting efforts. This will help in assessing the impact of the project on landscape restoration and in making necessary adjustments.

5. **Community Policing Partnership:** RDIS will collaborate with the Rwanda National Police to organize training for youth volunteers on environmental protection. This initiative aims to protect the planted areas from illegal activities and ensure the success of the project.

Conclusion:

The meeting concluded on a positive note with stakeholders aligned on the project's vision and objectives. There was a collective commitment towards enhancing the ecological and socioeconomic fabric of the Lake Kivu Basin, with a focus on sustainable practices, community involvement, and long-term environmental stewardship.



Done on 10th February 2024

Eric Bagenzi, RDIS Project Manager