BIOCOOR Profile

BIOCOOR Rwanda, www.biocoor.org.rw is a youth led NGO composed of local people dedicated to biodiversity conservation, community health, environmental management, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. BIOCOOP now BIOCOOR was created in 2012 by a Mandela Washington Fellow Ange IMANISHIMWE and his colleagues in rural areas with the goal of biodiversity conservation, landscape restoration, and creation of sustainable livelihoods for rural people in Rwanda. It was incorporated into an NGO in 2020 under the name Biodiversity Conservation Organization, or BIOCOOR.

The group works toward integrating biodiversity conservation, farming, landscape restoration, nutrition, environmental management, and community health to positively affect the local economy. These practices also help save the forest of Nyungwe National Park and Lake Kivu because as the local economy is improved, resources remain unharmed and the park and the lake help attract tourists, which further creates revenue for local communities. The organization is working to enhance community awareness on biodiversity conservation within the five districts that surround the Nyungwe National Forest: Rusizi, Nyamasheke, Karongi, Nyamagabe and Nyaruguru and has activities in five other Districts: Huye, Gisagara, Nyanza, Ngororero, and Rutsiro. We have the project of landscape restoration in and around the Lake Kivu. BIOCOOR is planning to extend the work around Gishwati-Mukura National Park in the actual strategic plan to restore the Biodiversity of the Congo Nile Area. The BIOCOOR headquarters is in Huye District, in the Southern Province of Rwanda.

Local farmers near the Nyungwe National Park (NNP) and Lake Kivu live in extreme poverty due to acidic soil, which results in a low crop yield. Poor farming conditions have led to illegal activities, such as poaching and deforestation, as a means to survive. These activities damage the environment, so BIOCOOR is trying to preserve the forest and the lake by simultaneously influencing the economic development of the people living near the NNP and Lake Kivu. BIOCOOR has launched projects to promote youth entrepreneurship, safe water and sanitation practices, landscape restoration, the removal of invasive plants that damage the forest, as well as soil improvement and composting. BIOCOOR has the expertise in Biodiversity

Assessment and Monitoring. The Organization worked with international companies such as OCA Global, Salva Terra, New Forests Company, and others in forestry related consultancies. BIOCOOR has mobilized around $1,350,000 in grants and investments from TROCAIRE, JOA, UNDP, Commonwealth, IRISH AID, IUCN, Ministry of Youth and Arts in Rwanda, Good Neighbors, WRI Terrafund AFR100, and others to implement a number of projects. The 13 Years of Experience has made a tangible impact in Biodiversity Conservation, Forestry Managements, and Livelihoods improvement in South Western Rwanda.

Facts and Figures

Part time Job created since the foundation: 3,521 people

People who were economically empowered through beekeeping, energy cooking stoves distribution, access to clean water, seeds and seedlings, domestic animals, and capital injection: 86,762

People who were transformed from poaching to protection: 500

Permanent jobs created since the foundation :121

Actual staff members: 38

Number of planted trees: 328,000

Number of tree species: 13

The animal we protect in Nyungwe National Park buffer zone: Chimpanzees, Mountain Monkeys, Blue monkeys, Black fronted duikers, Birds, reptiles, amphibians, butterflies, etc

Number of hectares restored through Assisted Natural Regeneration: 152ha

Number of hectares restored by riparian and agroforestry: 720ha

Memorandum of understanding signed: 8

Contracts signed: 21

Funds mobilized: $1,350,000

Investments secured: $ 320,000

Annual income of Nyungwe EcoVillage: 52,000

We have a Botanic Garden that has 70 indigenous tree species and a Conservation Leadership Center that accommodates 70 people for training on day time and we have 27 rooms that help in case we have a program that requires people to stay.