GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

IFAD
Investing in rural people

Resilient
FOOD SYSTEMS

Resilient Food Systems

Programme highlights

2020

AGRA Growing Africa's Agriculture
Bioversity International
CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL
FAO FIAT PANIS
THE WORLD BANK IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP
UNDP Empowered lives. Resilient nations.
UN environment
UNIDO
World Agroforestry

The pandemic has shone a spotlight on the drivers behind some of the most pressing challenges facing our agricultural systems—climate change, environmental damage and biodiversity loss—and created a renewed sense of urgency for transformational change.

MS JYOTSNA PURI, PH.D
DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE, GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION DIVISION
INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

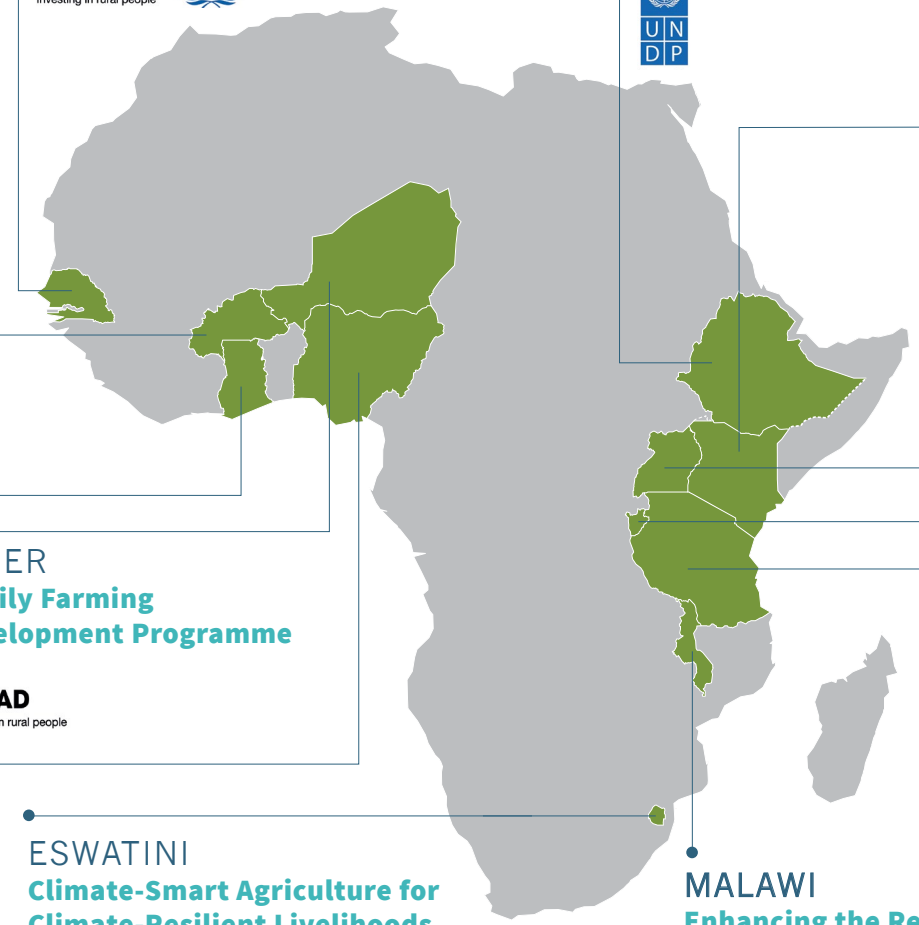
Intro to RFS

- RFS is one of the three **Integrated Approach Pilot programmes** funded by GEF.
- Through RFS, GEF is advancing a new paradigm for Africa's agricultural systems: one that emphasises the importance of natural capital and ecosystem services for agricultural productivity.
- RFS consists of **12 country projects** (Burkina Faso, Burundi, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda) and one cross-cutting **Regional Hub project.**

- Duration: **2017 – 2022**
- Total investment: **USD 116 million + co-financing**
- Implementation led by **IFAD**
- Programme Coordination Unit (PCU) hosted by **ICRAF**

IMAGE: © Adamawa State Agricultural Development Project, UNDP-GEF Nigeria.

Twelve Country Projects



SENEGAL
Agricultural Value Chains Resilience Support Project

IFAD Investing in rural people · UNIDO

ETHIOPIA
Integrated Landscape Management to Enhance Food Security and Ecosystem Resilience

UNDP

KENYA
Upper Tana-Nairobi Water Fund

IFAD Investing in rural people

UGANDA
Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in Karamoja Sub-Region

UNDP · FAO

BURUNDI
Support for Sustainable Food Production and Enhancement of Food Security and Climate Resilience in Burundi's Highlands

FAO

TANZANIA
Reversing Land Degradation trends and increasing Food Security in degraded ecosystems of semi-arid areas of central Tanzania

IFAD Investing in rural people

MALAWI
Enhancing the Resilience of Agro-ecological Systems

IFAD Investing in rural people

ESWATINI
Climate-Smart Agriculture for Climate-Resilient Livelihoods

IFAD Investing in rural people

NIGERIA
Integrated Landscape Management to Enhance Food Security and Ecosystem Resilience in Nigeria

UNDP

NIGER
Family Farming Development Programme

IFAD Investing in rural people

GHANA
Sustainable Land and Water Management Project

THE WORLD BANK IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

BURKINA FASO
Participatory Natural Resource Management and Rural Development Project

IFAD Investing in rural people

Engage

Connect, collaborate and share

IMAGE: © Benue State Agricultural Development Project, UNDP-GEF Nigeria.

#RFSimpact

RFS has established **multi-stakeholder platforms** and influenced **policies**, **policy instruments** and **regulatory frameworks** focused on integrated natural resource management at the national and sub-national level.

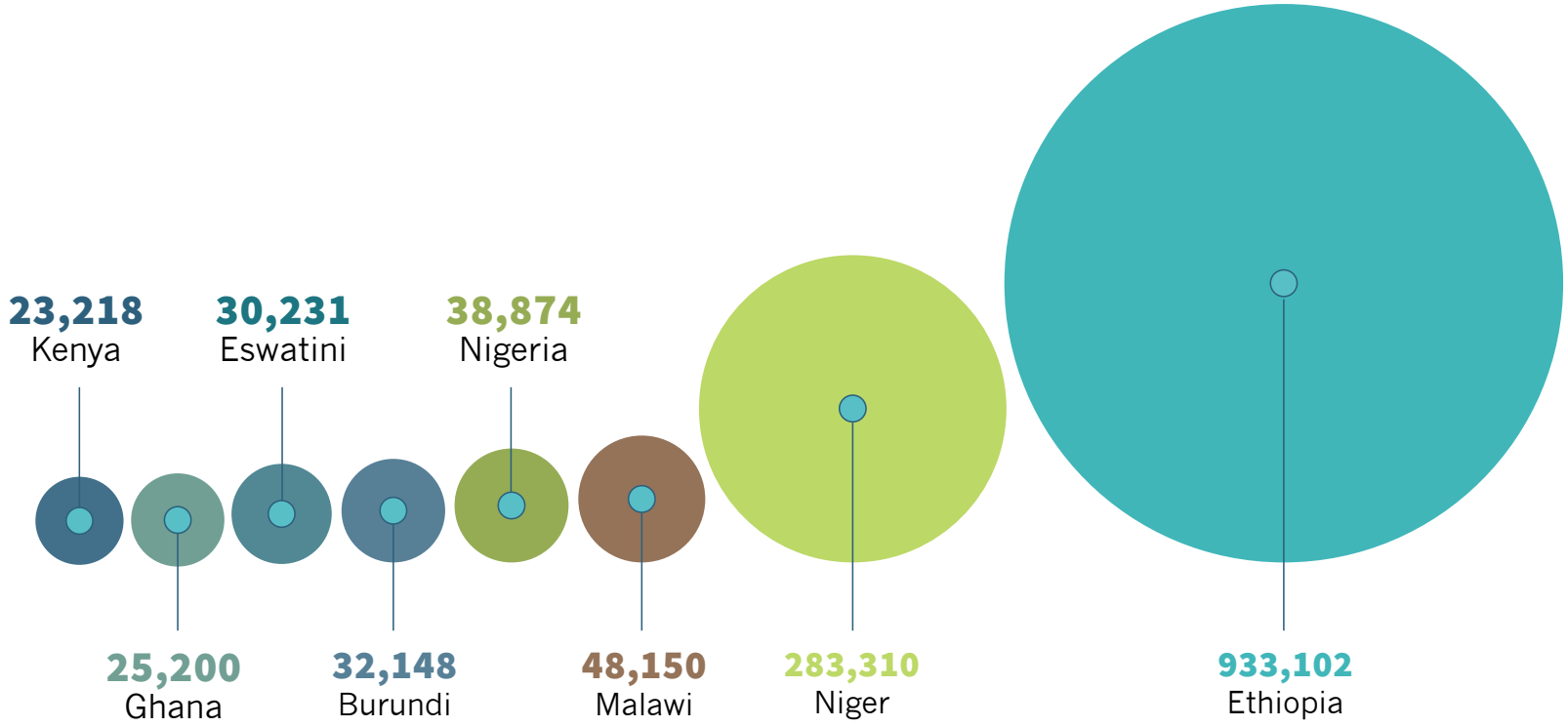
19
national platforms

51
sub-national platforms

8
policies, policy instruments and regulatory frameworks

#RFSimpact

RFS country projects engage over **1.4 million** beneficiaries.



Establishing and training local multi-stakeholder platforms for managing natural resources

- RFS **Malawi** has created 5 catchment management committees and 66 village nature resource management committees responsible for implementing catchment-level conservation activities and promoting sustainable land, water, and natural resource management.
- RFS **Ghana** has established a vertically-aligned institutional framework to oversee six community resource management areas (CREMAs). As a result, 600,955 hectares of land within the Western Wildlife Corridor have been brought under sustainable land management.
- In **Eswatini,** RFS has supported the incorporation of evidence (land degradation assessments and water inventories) and environment and climate change considerations into 23 Chiefdom Development Plans. This is further localised through 16 natural resource management committees at the farm level.

In terms of sustainability of the project, the village natural resource committees have been empowered to manage their own investments and implement actual interventions on the ground.

BRYSON MSISKA
M&E OFFICER, RFS MALAWI

IMAGE: © Felix Malamula, IFAD Malawi.

Fostering strategic partnerships & influencing policy processes

- Through **IFAD,** RFS is participating in policy discussions and contributing to the regional environment and climate cluster two-year workplan under the **United Nations and African Union Regional Coordination Mechanism.**
- **FAO** and **ICRAF**'s Stakeholder Approach to Risk Informed and Evidence Based Decision Making (SHARED) Decision Hub held a two-part virtual training series to build skills in enhancing policy and institutional engagement
- Partnerships in development with the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) and with the African Risk Capacity, a specialised agency of the African Union.

IMAGE: © Jigawa State Agricultural Development Project, UNDP-GEF Nigeria.

South-south learning exchanges: sharing knowledge and lessons between projects

- After observing the impact of a new composting initiative in Ghana during the 2019 RFS Annual Workshop, RFS **Nigeria** decided to take the new approach home with them. In 2020, the project trained more than 2,000 farmers in production of high-grade biofertilisers, **saving each farmer roughly USD 84 per hectare of land each cropping season.**
- RFS **Burkina Faso** organised a learning and exchange workshop with delegations from **Niger** and **Senegal** to share regional experiences in integrating land degradation considerations into national planning frameworks.
- The PCU held two learning and exchange webinars in July with presentations from the Tanzania, Senegal, Nigeria, and Malawi country projects. The webinars provided a space for country project teams to update each other on progress and engage in discussions despite COVID-19 travel restrictions.

2,000 farmers

trained in new composting methods

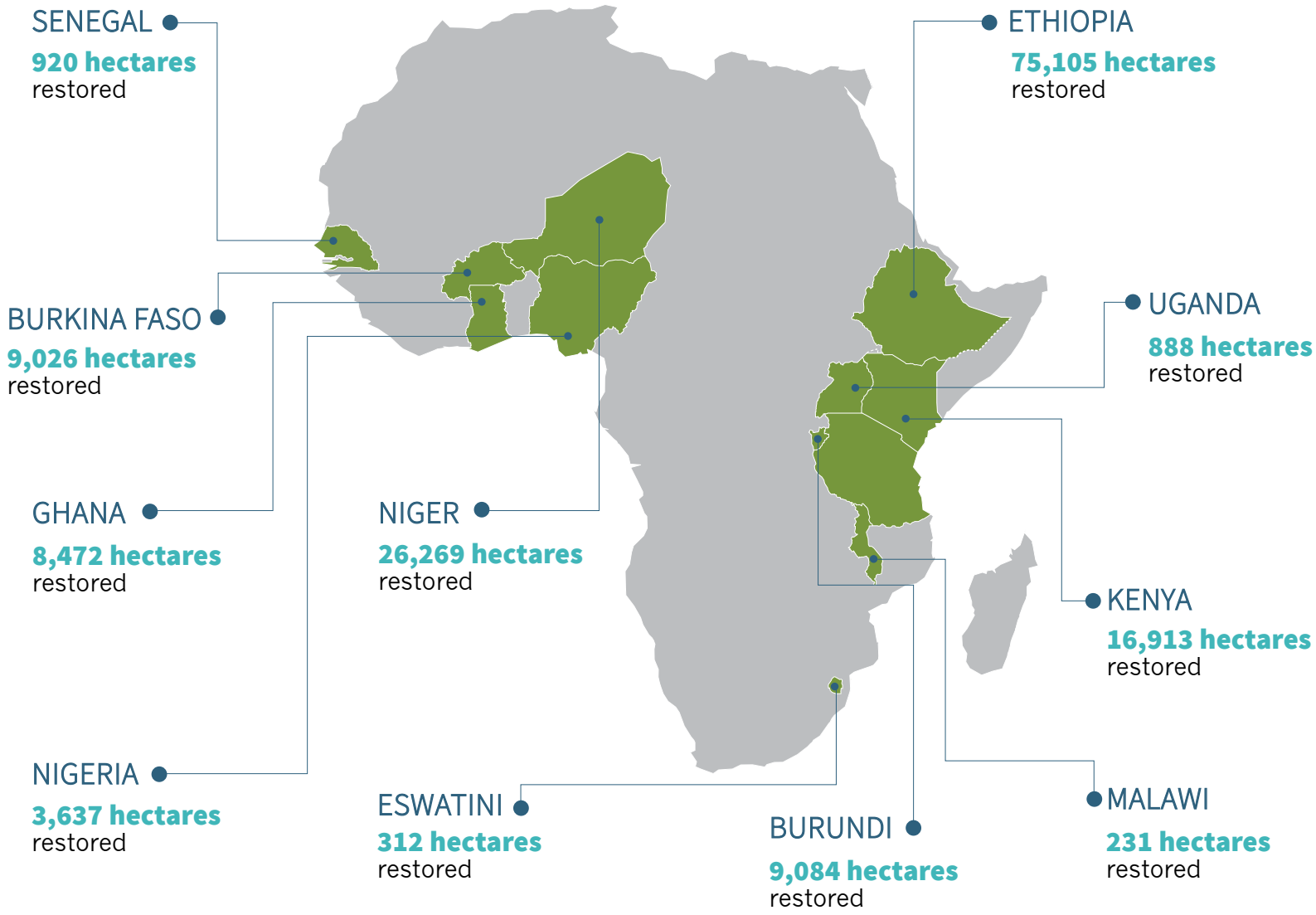
IMAGE: © Benue State Agricultural Development Project, UNDP-GEF Nigeria.

Act

Impact at scale

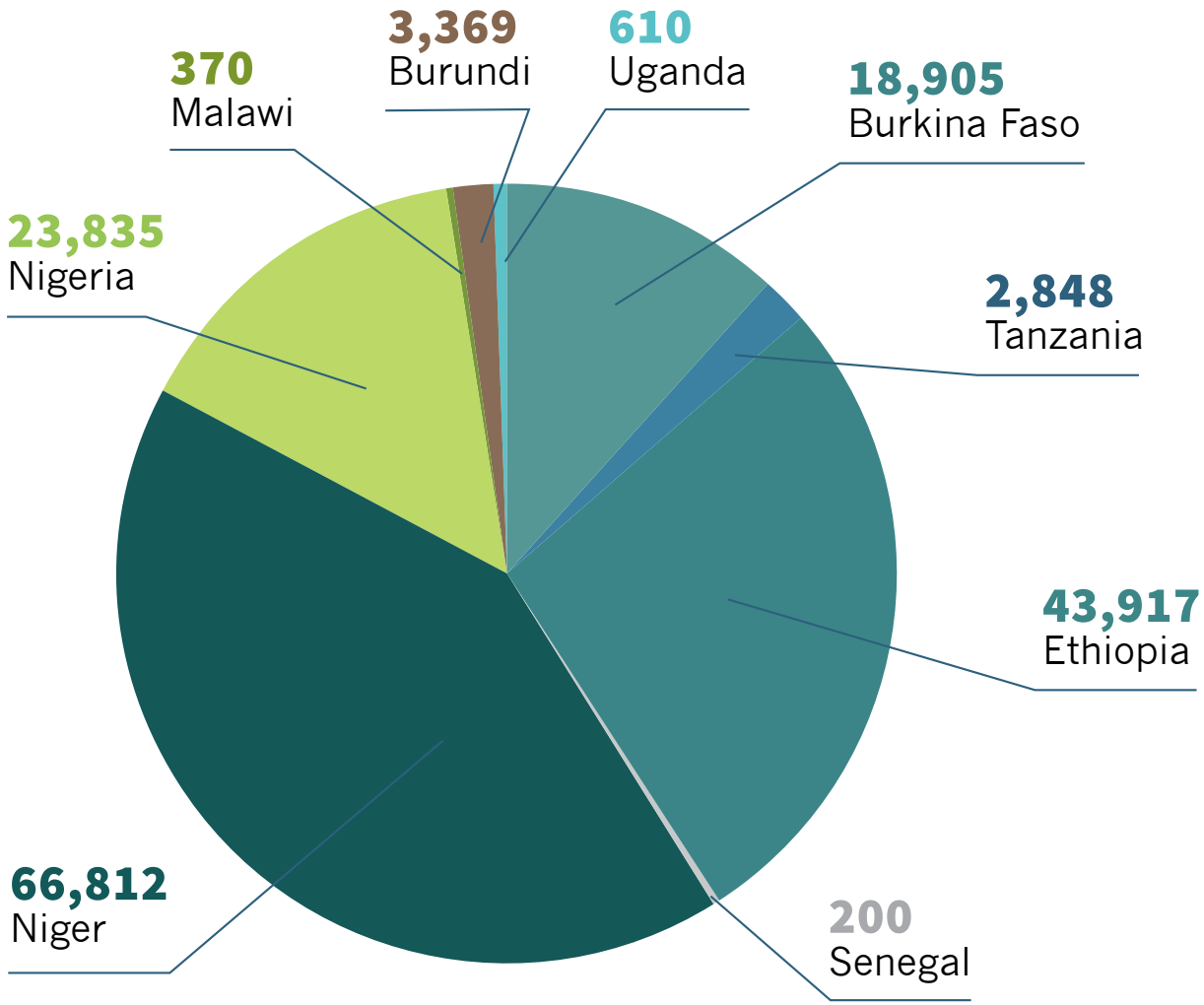
#RFSimpact

RFS country projects have restored **150,857 ha** of previously degraded land.



#RFSimpact

160,866 farmers have been trained by RFS country projects **in sustainable land management** practices.



Restoring degraded land through sustainable land and water management approaches

- In **Niger,** the project restored 13,487 ha of land through mechanical interventions and sustainable land management. After sites have been mechanically prepared, community members plant trees to assist in biological recovery of the sites. The project has planted 607,972 trees in three project regions, increasing carbon storage capacity by 5.26 million Mt CO2e over the next 20 years.

- In **Senegal's** Saloum delta, RFS is working with mangrove user associations to restore mangrove ecosystems and rehabilitate 800 hectares of land in targeted watershed areas. The project has installed anti-salt dikes to recover 200 hectares of land previously abandoned because of high salinisation.

- RFS **Burundi** is teaching farmers agroforestry techniques to reduce soil erosion and improve soil fertility. The project has constructed 180 kilometres of contour lines and planted 2.5 million tree seedlings, covering 8,907 hectares.

IMAGE: © Maurice Ascani, ProDAF.

The RFS Burundi and Niger projects have propagated and planted over

3 million trees

Supporting transformation of rural extension services and adoption of sustainable approaches through Farmer Field Schools (FFSs)

- In **Burundi,** 105 FFSs in 58 communes have helped farmers implement erosion control, agroforestry approaches and soil fertility management. The FFS approach has been so successful that the government of Burundi is institutionalising the methodology within the national extension service strategy.

- RFS **Nigeria** held master trainer workshops to train 100+ agricultural extension workers, conducted a study to identify suitable crops for each of the 70 project communities and prepared demonstration plots to showcase new crops and techniques. From February to April 2020, the project trained +7,000 farmers (56% women) in sustainable land and water management and climate-smart agricultural practices.

IMAGE: © Nasarawa State Agricultural Development Project, UNDP-GEF Nigeria.

Our yields are almost always low, with little profit even from our processing and marketing of farm produce. The opportunities to improve seem very difficult, but with the introduction of these improved seeds and good practices from the [RFS] project, the future looks promising.

JAMILA SALE, FARMER
NASARAWA, NIGERIA

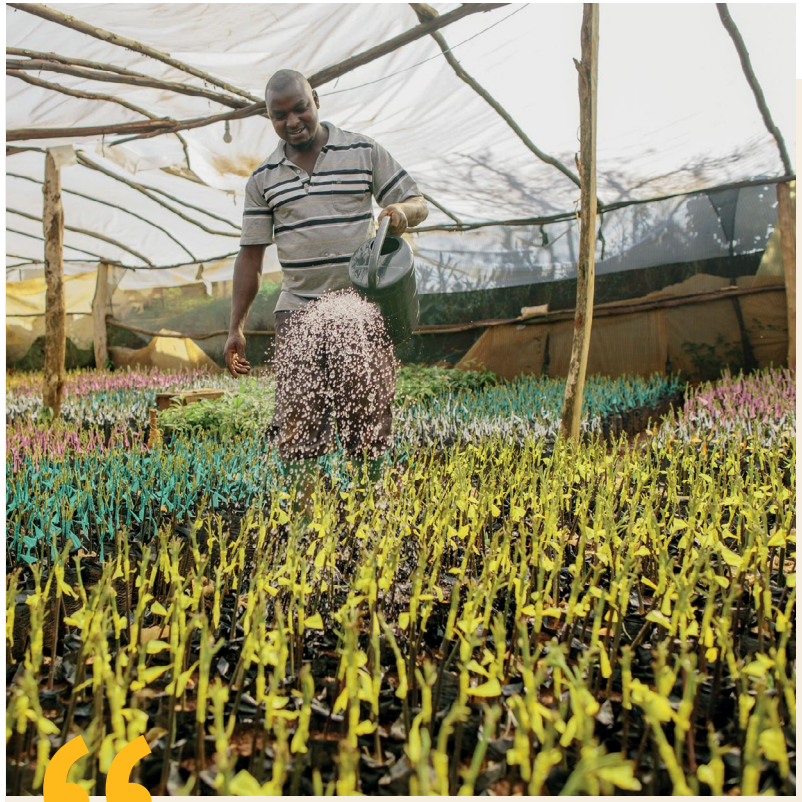
Diversifying livelihoods: providing new, sustainable sources of income

- In **Burkina Faso**, RFS has approved financing for 418 community-led micro-projects, including production and processing of néré, baobab and shea, reaching 3,134 beneficiaries, 77% of whom are women and 41% youth.
- In **Burundi, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria** and **Senegal**, country projects are promoting beekeeping as an alternative income-generating activity. RFS Eswatini established 12 demonstration sites to teach farmers about honey production and has partnered with a non-profit organisation to facilitate linkages between honey producers and end markets.
- RFS **Ethiopia** is targeting women's groups to support high-value income-generating activities. 69 self-help groups with a total of 2,783 female members are establishing small-scale businesses, including selling butter, trading grain and tailoring. Women are earning an average of **an additional USD 50-75 per month.**

IMAGE: © Benue State Agricultural Development Project, UNDP-GEF Nigeria.

Engaging the private sector and making a business case for investing in nature

- Through the Regional Hub, **AGRA** and **UNDP** have provided training on greening agricultural value chains as well as 3 catalytic grants to support activities that contribute to green value chain development in Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi, Burkina Faso and Niger.
- To reduce the risk of lending to farmers, RFS **Niger** trained banking sector participants in managing agricultural credit risk and established a cost-sharing financing mechanism that connects banks with groups of farmers.
- To finance rehabilitation of the Tana River, the RFS **Kenya** project has established an endowment fund—the first of its kind in Africa. Building on seed funding from GEF and IFAD, the fund has raised USD 1.6 million from multinational companies and more than USD 150,000 from smallholder farmers.



We are bringing in resources that already existed but are now channelling them into a shared governance space.

ANTHONY KARIUKI
PROJECT COORDINATOR, UTNWF

IMAGE: © Bobby Neptune, The Nature Conservancy.

Track

Monitor, learn, respond

IMAGE: © Roshni Lodhia, The Nature Conservancy

Harmonising M&E across the programme and scaling up the use of common tools

- It has been a challenge to accommodate project differences while ensuring there is enough alignment between monitoring approaches and frameworks to track programme impacts and contributions to global environmental benefits.
- This harmonisation effort has required consistent collaborative engagement with country projects and Regional Hub partners to establish linkages between project- and programme-level M&E and broader GEF monitoring frameworks, including the new GEF-7 indicators.
- The PCU organised a dedicated M&E workshop in November 2019 at the ICRAF campus in Nairobi to establish programme-wide indicators and targets.

IMAGE: © Roshni Lodhia, The Nature Conservancy.

Scaling up the use of common M&E tools and building capacity to monitor resilience

- The 2019 M&E workshop provided an opportunity to introduce country projects to a large variety of M&E tools and approaches supported by **Regional Hub** partners, including:

- **Resilience Atlas** and **Trends. Earth** (Conservation International);
- Diversity Assessment Tool for Agrobiodiversity and Resilience (**DATAR**: Bioversity International);
- Land Degradation Surveillance Framework (**LDSF:** ICRAF);
- Self-evaluation and Holistic Assessment of climate Resilience of farmers and Pastoralists (**SHARP:** FAO);
- Food Insecurity Experience Scale (**FIES:** FAO);
- Ex-Ante Carbon Balance Tool (**EX-ACT:** FAO); and
- **Outcome mapping** (ICRAF, Bangor University and IFAD).

IMAGE: © Loice Abenda, The Nature Conservancy.

The training sessions resulted in a major increase in adoption of these tools across the programme.

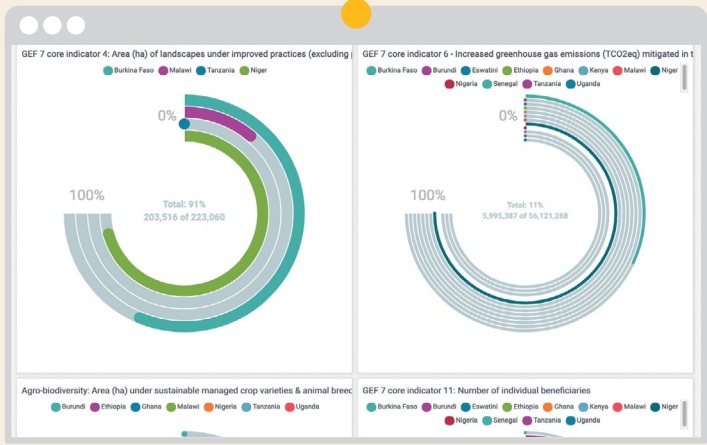
- To help support country projects in implementation, follow-up virtual training sessions for EX-ACT, DATAR and outcome mapping were held in 2020. Trainings for SHARP and Resilience Atlas have already taken place in 2021.

Online information systems: helping RFS country projects track and share progress in real time

- RFS stakeholders can access and compare data from multiple projects and at the regional level through the online M&E platform, **SmartME,** which is linked to the **RFS Knowledge Centre.**

- RFS **Kenya** installed real-time data collection tools in 7 water monitoring stations and 28 river gauging stations to automatically relay data on water level, salinity, conductivity and temperature to Nairobi City Water and Sewerage Company and Jomo Kenyatta University.

- RFS **Ethiopia** launched an Integrated Web-Based and GIS-Embedded Information Management System to provide accurate, timely information about changes in land use, land cover, degradation level, soil fertility and underground water level. As of June 2020, targeted training has increased the capacity of all 12 districts in monitoring environmental indicators by more than 50 percent.



www.smartme.adalia.fi

Targeting gender

IMAGE: © Annie Spratt - Unsplash

Promoting women's empowerment across RFS operations

- The Regional Hub developed a **guidance note on gender mainstreaming** to assist country teams in ensuring that men and women have equal opportunities to participate in, contribute to and benefit from the country projects.
- RFS **Ethiopia** has established 12 district-level and 58 community-level gender teams responsible for mainstreaming gender into district development plans. 512 gender team members, 70 percent of whom were women, have been trained on concepts related to gender equality and women's empowerment.
- In **Eswatini,** the RFS project has been increasing participation of women in five priority value chains—honey, legumes, horticulture, goats and indigenous chickens. Training sessions have provided a platform for female farmers to connect with one another, combine knowledge and resources, pool resources and solve problems.

© Gcinile Mavimbela, Eswatini Water and Agricultural Development Enterprise.

"With the new knowledge, I am now able to secure a source of income and maintain my household. What is more exciting is the fact that I have been able to construct a modern house using the earnings that I have received"

TAKHONA MDLULI
FARMER, ESWAITNI

What's next for RFS?

- A programme-wide **mid-term review** (MTR) will be conducted in 2021 along with several project-level MTRs, including for the Regional Hub. By examining progress toward project targets and implementation timelines, these reviews will provide opportunities for course corrections in line with the programme's commitment to balance ambition with realism.

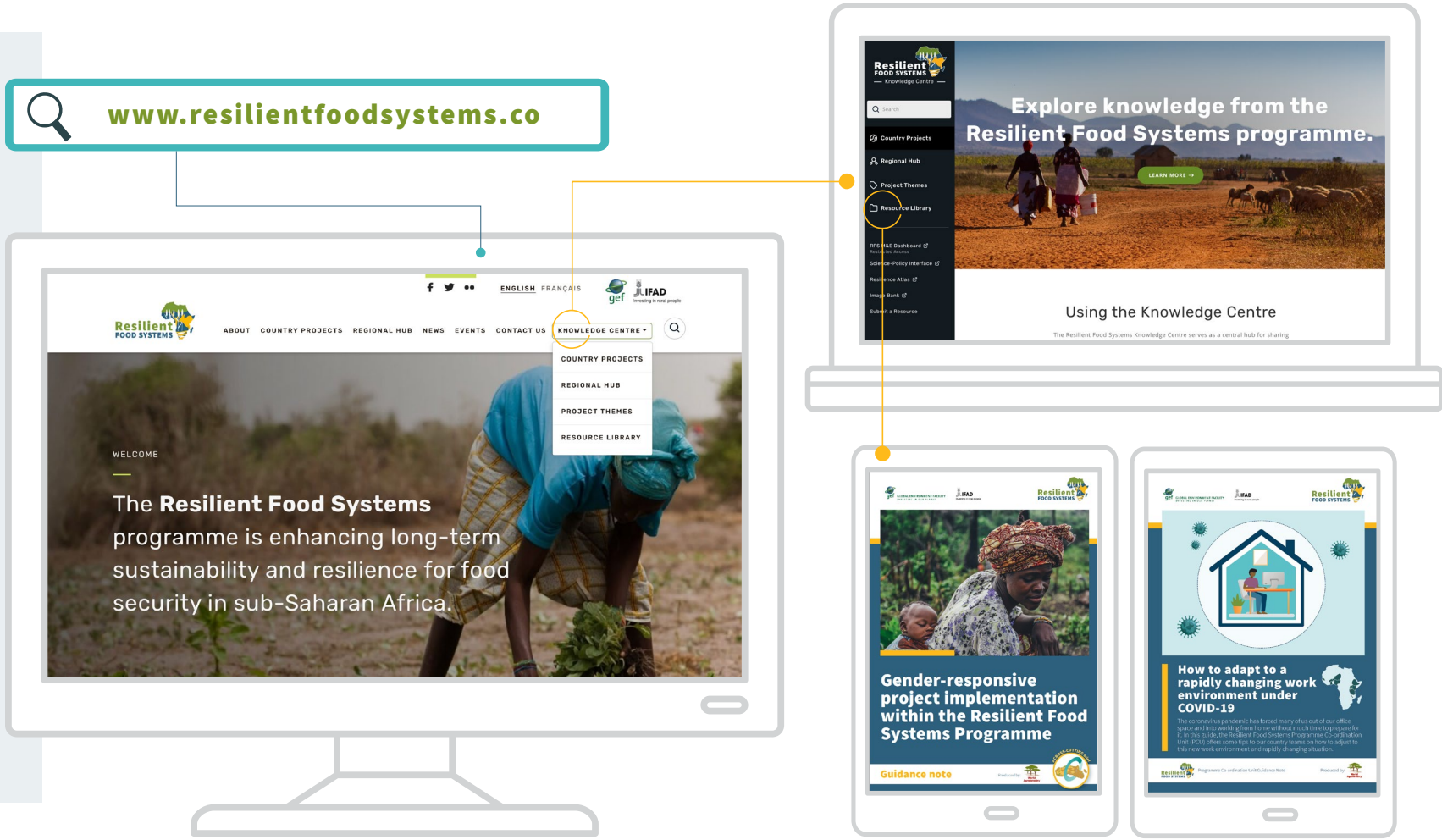
- In 2021, the **Upper Tana-Nairobi Water Fund** will fully transition into a trust.
- RFS **Malawi** is looking forward to the development and implementation of five sub-catchment management plans.
- RFS **Tanzania** will begin to roll out a rainwater harvesting initiative, construct small dams, and drill boreholes to improve smallholder access to irrigation during the dry season.
- RFS **Uganda** aims to establish 252 new Farmer Field Schools this year.

“We are seeing a lot of households saying ‘thanks, but no thanks’ to food aid in the communities where we work.”

LYNN KOTA
PROJECT COORDINATOR, RFS ESWATINI

Learn more about RFS

Check out the RFS website and Knowledge Centre where you can find helpful resources, tools, case studies and new stories related to the different countries and themes of the RFS programme.



Resilient FOOD SYSTEMS

www resilientfoodsystems.co

ResFoodSystems

ResilientFoodSystems

Supported by: gef

Led by: IFAD Investing in rural people

In partnership with: AGRA Growing Africa's Agriculture; Bioversity International; Conservation International; FAO Fiat Panis; The World Bank IBRD • IDA | World Bank Group; UNDP Empowered lives. Resilient nations.; UN environment programme; UNIDO; World Agroforestry