

THE LEGACY TREE PROJECT FACT SHEET

WHAT IS A LEGACY TREE?

Legacy trees are the oldest and largest native trees remaining in the working landscapes surrounded by agricultural, human settlements and urbanization.

These trees are recognized by their historical, cultural, ecological or other unique values.



WHAT CAN A LEGACY TREE DO?

One tree can absorb about **22 kilograms** of carbon dioxide every year.

One tree can support **~2 million** organisms throughout its life, effectively promoting biodiversity.

One tree has the potential to release **50,000 litres** of water which feeds back into the water cycle, promoting rainfall.

IMPORTANCE OF LEGACY TREES

- ➔ Biodiversity haven, carbon storage & many other ecosystem services.
- ➔ Educational and Cultural purposes.
- ➔ Sustenance and other resources.
- ➔ Highlight traditional knowledge.
- ➔ Promote people-nature connections.
- ➔ Seed source for restoration.
- ➔ Legacy for Future Generations.


EXPECTED OUTCOMES


- ➔ Better access to native seed stock for native tree species restoration.
- ➔ Data availability and accessibility for research and reporting.
- ➔ Increased community knowledge of the importance of indigenous tree species.
- ➔ Enhanced awareness of traditional knowledge & cultural connections with trees in Rwanda.
- ➔ Sustainable conservation of the remaining legacy/heritage trees in the country.

HOW WILL THIS PROJECT WORK?

- ➔ Document the legacy trees in the entire country, district by district through surveys, outreach and competitions.
- ➔ Document the stories about why the trees remain in the landscape using video and photos through discussions with elders and other community members.
- ➔ Create a map of the legacy trees in the country.
- ➔ Develop a stewardship program for the Rwandan legacy trees with youth in local communities.
- ➔ Advocate for policy to protect the legacy trees of the country.
- ➔ Develop a legacy tree tour to share the wonder of these beautiful trees with the public, managed by local communities with revenue supporting communities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT, PLEASE CONTACT:

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