



SEW

Burundi • DR Congo • Rwanda

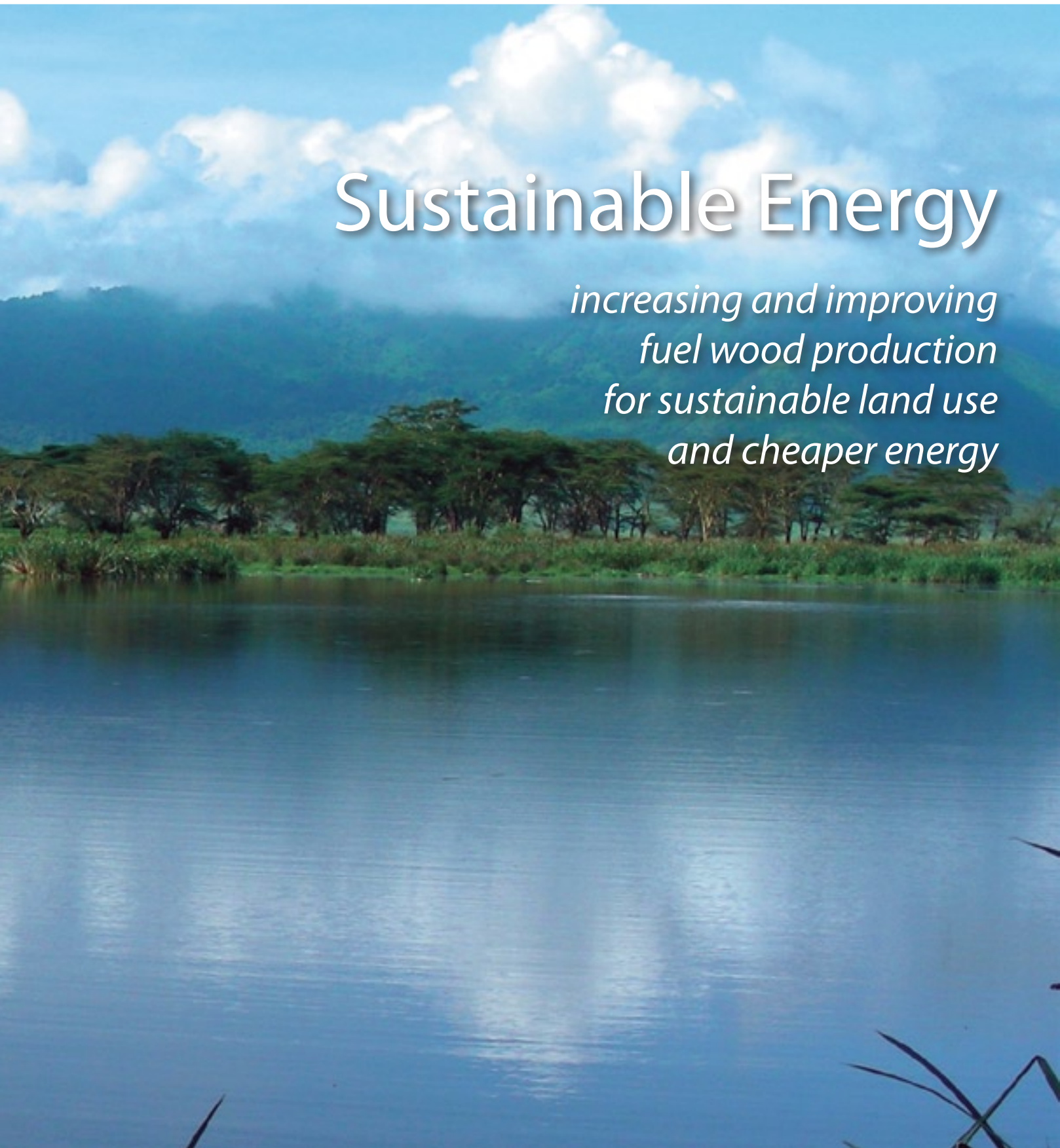
Sustainable Energy through Woodlots and Agroforestry in the Albertine Rift



a project for the great lakes region of central africa

Sustainable Energy

*increasing and improving
fuel wood production
for sustainable land use
and cheaper energy*



SEW

helping solve a critical energy crisis

With the highest population density of Sub-Saharan Africa, the beautiful Albertine Rift of Central Africa's Great Lakes Region (CAGLR) is facing a critical energy crisis due largely to the over-harvesting of trees for fuel.

For many years most people in the CAGLR have had access only to fuel wood and charcoal as sources of energy. Practices such as harvesting trees without replanting have fostered severe environmental degradation and jeopardized agricultural production. Use of inefficient stoves and other technology has also wasted precious energy.

As part of the *Catalyze Agricultural Intensification for Social and Environmental Stability (CATALIST)* project, SEW seeks to achieve sustainable energy production based on reforestation and the professionalization of the energy production sector.

Currently, energy production and agriculture are in fierce competition for land, nutrients, water and other resources. By increasing both wood production and agricultural productivity, SEW seeks to reduce competition for land while raising incomes.

This process will not only contribute to a re-greening of the landscape (creating conditions

for improved ecological conservation and management) but also help to advance peace in the Albertine Rift.

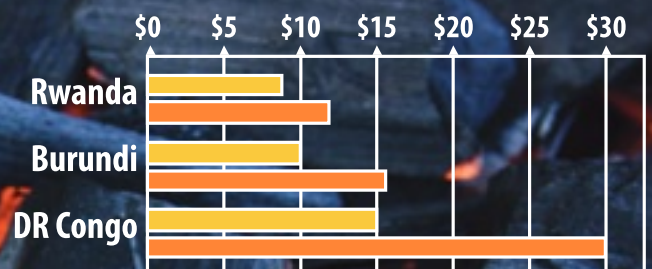


SEW's goals include:

- Boost fuel wood production by increasing private investment in tree farms and the promotion of agroforestry
- Strengthen firewood and charcoal value chains
- Provide an enabling environment for the development of the fuelwood sectors

Prices rising throughout the region

As deforestation continues and supplies shrink, prices are rising rapidly. Between January and December 2008, the price of charcoal (100kg bag) in Kigali, Rwanda went from \$ 8 to \$13 (USD), while in Bujumbura, Burundi, the price rose from \$10 to \$16. In the same period of time, Goma and Bukavu in the DR Congo saw prices double from \$15 to \$30.





Agroforestry nurseries such as the one shown above in North Kivu (Democratic Republic of Congo), are fairly simple to start, provide small-scale entrepreneurs with a renewable source of income and encourage local residents to plant trees.



Ultimately, all the people of Burundi, Rwanda and the North and South Kivu provinces of the eastern DRC (even the most disadvantaged of the population) will be the beneficiaries of SEW. They can participate in seedling production and planting, using the Labor-Intensive Infrastructure Works — “*Haute intensité de main-d’oeuvre*” (HIMO) — approach.

Direct beneficiaries will include:

- Smallholder farmers and planters
- Enterprises and organizations involved in producing seedlings and in planting
- Those involved in charcoal production and fuel wood and charcoal trade
- Extension trainers
- Women, refugees and former soldiers

Quick Facts

- The region has the lowest use of inorganic fertilizer in the world (kg/ha)
- The region has the highest negative soil nutrient balance in the world at a rate of 100 kg per year for every hectare of cropland
- 85 percent of the population is rural with an average farm size of less than 1 ha
- Each farm feeds an average of 5-6 persons
- 95 percent of household energy is derived from biomass (mainly wood and charcoal)
- Agricultural byproducts (such as cow dung, cassava stems) are increasingly used for fuel, instead of as organic fertilizers in food production

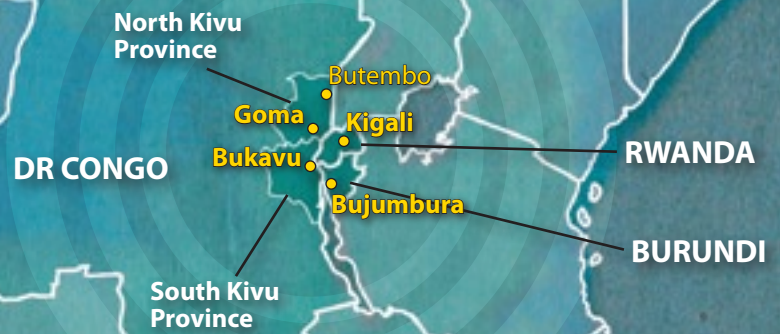
In the picture below, a vendor has set out bags of charcoal for sale along a roadside. Most urban households depend almost exclusively on charcoal as their main source of fuel for cooking.



Where is SEW?

At the heart of the Great Lakes Region, IFDC's SEW project conducts activities in Burundi, Rwanda and the North and South Kivu provinces in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The project headquarters are located in Bujumbura, the capital of Burundi.



SEW at a glance

"Sustainable Energy through Woodlots and Agroforestry in the Albertine Rift" was awarded to IFDC in January 2009 and appended onto the CATALIST project. This arrangement was made in recognition of the interdependency of the energy (firewood and charcoal) and agricultural sectors.

The overall goal of SEW is to decrease competition for land use between energy and agricultural production by improving wood production, use and income from woodlots and agroforestry plantings.

The resulting reforestation of the landscape will create conditions that improve the chances of successful nature conservation, environmental management and sustainable land use.

Beneficiaries will include fuel wood-producing farmers, charcoal producers and other stakeholders of the commercial wood value chain, and also consumers of energy from wood, who will benefit from stabilizing fuel prices.



Women are very much involved in the fuelwood value chain. Gender is being considered in the promotion of fuel-efficient stoves, agroforestry, carbonization and all other matters.

SEW

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