

Brewing up natural capital: A case study on tea

## The Wood Foundation Africa

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# Overview

## **The Wood Foundation Africa**

- Private Foundation
- Venture philanthropy approach
- Services Company Model for Smallholders
- Working with over 46,000 tea farmers
- \$180m investment portfolio (Rwanda)





### **Portfolio Interventions**

- In partnership with Gatsby Charitable
  Foundation
- \$12M initial investment:
  - 2 smallholder tea factory privatisations
  - 12000 farmers
  - 24% national tea production
- Comprehensive Programme:
  - production
  - quality
  - modernisation
  - premium prices





## **Portfolio Interventions**

Inward Investment

- Modernisation & Capacity Built
- Farmer KPIs Achieved
- Investment Recovery shares will be handed over at NIL return

1<sup>st</sup> 100% smallholder owned tea factories in Rwanda



- Increasing climate shocks
- Floods, landslides, soil erosion, droughts
- Annual losses
  - 2.0 to 3.3 million tonnes of green leaf
  - Market loss of \$1.1 1.8
    million









Measures also contribute to Watershed Management

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#### Natural capital investment

- Measure to reduce dependence on fuel wood (1 ha of forest for every 3-4 ha of tea)
- Piloting sustainable
  forest management
- Trialling hybrid energy systems







#### **Greenfield tea development**

• Developing 2 large greenfield sites (DFID co-funding)

District	% poverty rate	% chronic malnutrition (U5s)
Nyaruguru	47.9%	38%
Karongi	45.3%	42%

- Partnering with major private investors to establish tea factories and core estates
- Factories dependent on smallholders for 75-90% of supply
- TWF Role:
  - Out-grower development using Services Company Model



#### Natural capital for economic development

- New sites in areas of high landslide risk and soil erosion
- Slope planting provides natural stabilisation

NC Investment: Triple Win

## SH Economic Development

Reduced Climate Shocks

> Watershed Management



## Lessons and next steps

#### Lessons

- Strong economic case for NC investment
- NC = Economic Development

#### Challenges

- Rate of return: Requires blend of private and public (climate) finance
- NC takes time: Patient capital is key

#### **Next Steps**

- Working with IFC to measure (\$) natural capital
- Insights are shaping our business portfolio

