

Rwanda has secured a significant victory in its fight against climate change, receiving \$31 million (approximately RWF 40 billion) in funding from the Climate Investment Funds (CIF).

This investment is part of a broader \$61 million initiative aimed at supporting climate interventions in both Rwanda and the Dominican Republic.

The funding comes through the CIF's Nature, People, and Climate (NPC) program, launched in 2022. This program prioritizes nature-based solutions that address the interconnected challenges of land use, climate change, and the livelihoods of rural communities.

The investment will specifically target the Kaduha-Gitwe corridor, a region facing significant environmental challenges. Here, the focus will be on restoring degraded land, promoting sustainable forest and wetland management, and improving the lives of vulnerable populations. This project will be implemented by the World Bank and is expected to attract additional co-financing of up to \$283 million.

A particularly exciting aspect of this initiative is the launch of the Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Bond. This innovative financial instrument, structured as a capital market bond, aims to raise capital for biodiversity conservation efforts, with a specific focus on protecting endangered chimpanzees.

Both Rwanda and the Dominican Republic were praised for their "impressive" climate ambitions by Tariye Gbadegesin, CEO of the Climate Investment Funds. He highlighted the co-benefits of the program, such as improved biodiversity and livelihoods for vulnerable communities.

Dr. Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya, Rwanda's Minister of Environment, welcomed the funding, emphasizing its role in securing a resilient and prosperous future for all Rwandans. She commended the collaboration between various stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society, and the private sector, that made this achievement possible.

This investment marks a significant step forward for Rwanda's fight against climate change. By combining innovative financial solutions with nature-based approaches, this project has the potential to create a lasting positive impact on the environment and the lives of Rwandans.