

Reforestation and Education in Burundi

The University of the South/Anglican Diocese of Buye, Burundi

A multifaceted project combined reforestation and community education efforts in Burundi with a climate change workshop offered at the School of Theology of the University of the South (Sewanee).



Photo: Simion Kinono

The Rev. Simion Kinono, graduate of the School of Theology of the University of the South (Sewanee), developed a community-education curriculum to accompany an ongoing reforestation project in the Anglican Diocese of Buye in Burundi. The University was able to contribute financial support and the expertise of Dr. Deborah McGrath (Professor of Biology) and Dr. Andrew Thompson (Assistant Professor of Ethics) to help Rev. Kinono develop and deliver the curriculum.

Following a successful workshop in Burundi on theology and the environmental responsibilities of the Church, Rev. Kinono joined Dr. Thompson to offer a follow-up workshop entitled “Churches on the Front Lines of Climate Change” at the School of Theology’s annual alumni lectures. The workshop used the Buye project to illustrate principles for Church-based climate change efforts based on the latest United Nations climate change data.

31 Students in Buye Workshop	25 Students in Sewanee Workshop	100,000 trees expected to be planted in 2 years
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“Most people think that people receive the Gospel only from the pulpit, but through the conversion of Emmanuel, they realized that actions done by the Church for the communities can attract people to salvation. Even though today the tree project has ended, people are still seeing the lands covered and they praise God for that.” – Jeanine Mutarutwa, Participant

Find out more

Center for Religion and Environment: <https://theology.sewanee.edu/cre/>
Burundi Project: <https://theology.sewanee.edu/media/features/alum-leads-environmental-protection-movement-in-burundi/>