

## CODEA Strengthens Conservation with Leadership Training



The Conservation and Demand Agency (CODEA) recently conducted a strategic internal review meeting and a comprehensive leadership training session for its Livelihoods-Rwenzori Yethu Project (RYP) team. Held from October 30 to November 1, 2024, at Snow Heights Hotel in Nyakalengijo, the three-day event reflected on CODEA's remarkable achievements so far and equipped team members to meet the ambitious goals set for the years ahead.

With a vision to establish itself as a leading conservation and development NGO, dedicated to fostering a self-sustaining society, CODEA is making significant strides through RYP. CODEA through this project aims to plant 3.1 million trees over a period of five years, improve the livelihoods of 11,000 households, rehabilitate 5,000 hectares of land, and establish approximately 1.4 million linear meters of tree hedges. These initiatives are designed to enhance crop production and productivity across the Rwenzori region.

Among the milestones celebrated during the review, CODEA has successfully planted around 155,802 tree seedlings, reached out to and trained 1,529 farmers, and mobilized, trained, and equipped 750 energetic

community members into labor gang. Additionally, the project has raised awareness through multiple arenas including radio talk shows, directive active engagement of the local community in conservation efforts.

Mr. Jonan Muhindo Kom, Director of CODEA, commended the team's dedication and commitment. He stressed the importance of expanding CODEA's influence internationally within the next two years. "To reach this vision, we must double our efforts, work beyond the norm, enhance our skills, and participate actively in resource mobilization," Mr. Kom noted, urging the team to align their efforts with CODEA's mission.

Solomon, the Head of the Secretariat at CODEA, inspired the team with references to biblical passages *Acts 3:1-9*, *Exodus 18:14-25*, and *Matthew 28:19-20*, preparing them to face both challenges and successes. He encouraged staff to stay informed by reviewing policies and contractual documents to ensure sustained accountability and professionalism.

The Rwenzori Yethu Project Manager, Mr. Lazarous, expressed gratitude to CODEA's leadership for the retreat, describing it as a "refreshing momentum for the Livelihoods-Rwenzori Yethu Project." He challenged participants to stay current with academic and technological advancements, empowering them to better serve their communities in an ever-evolving world.

With renewed energy and enhanced skills, CODEA's team is ready to advance its mission, contributing meaningfully to conservation, sustainable development, and community empowerment in the Rwenzori region