RIVER RWIZI CHARITY CONSERVATION

How we plant, and how we count

The method behind every figure published on riverrwizicharityconservation.org. Five stages, what each one leaves behind in the record, and what a stage that leaves nothing behind costs. Anyone should be able to repeat this work, or to disagree with it, from this document alone.

Biharwe, Mbarara City, Uganda · Version of 2026-06-30

01 Walk the stretch first

Before anything is planted we survey the bank on foot, record GPS points, and photograph the state it is in. Without a baseline there is no way to claim an improvement later.

WHAT GETS RECORDED
GPS points along the bank, dated photographs, and a written note of what is growing there and what is not.

02 Find out who owns and who uses

These are almost never the same person. Planting on land without the agreement of whoever is actually farming it produces seedlings that are gone within a month.

WHAT GETS RECORDED
Who holds the land, who farms it, and which of the two we have actually sat down with.

03 Agree the buffer, in writing where possible

How wide, for how long, and what the household gets in return. Usually seedlings for their own plot, sometimes training, occasionally nothing but the agreement itself.

WHAT GETS RECORDED
The width, the term, what the household receives, and the date both sides agreed it.

04 Plant in the wet season, with species that suit the site

Not whatever the nursery has surplus of. Bank species where the water rises, farm species behind the buffer. We stopped planting eucalyptus near water in 2023 and will not resume.

WHAT GETS RECORDED

Species, count, date and position for every planting, kept against the stretch it belongs to.

05 Come back at six and twelve months

Count what survived, replace what did not, and publish the survival rate. This is the step that gets cut when funding is short, and it is the step that decides whether any of the rest mattered.

WHAT GETS RECORDED

How many survived, how many were replaced, and the rate — published whether or not it flatters us.

WHAT THE METHOD HAS PRODUCED

6.4 km	of riverbank established and standing at twelve months
11,200	seedlings planted since 2022
61%	twelve-month survival across the 5 cohorts that have completed a year
6	fixed monitoring points, sampled quarterly since 2023, one of them a control stretch

Every figure above is our own field count on a marked transect, dated. Expenditure figures on the website are indicative pending the first external audit and are labelled as such wherever they appear. The quarterly monitoring series is structured sample data until the field records are loaded, and each chart says so on its face.