

*State of the Environment dissemination and National Environment
Agenda for Parliament*

WORKSHOP DISSEMINATION OF THE STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT and NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AGENDA: ASSEMBLY OF DEPUTIES AND SENATE – REPUBLIC OF RWANDA		
17TH JUNE 2010		
TIME	ACTIVITY	FACILITATOR/MODERATOR
8:00 – 09:00 am	<i>Registration of participant</i>	Parliamentary Staff
09:10 –09:20 am	Introductory remarks: Chairman of the Parliamentary commission in charge of Agriculture and environment Hon. BAZATOHA Adolphe.	Hon. MUKAKALISA Faith
09:20 – 09:40 am	Opening remarks: President of the Senate BIRUTA Vincent.	
09:40 – 10:00 am	Remarks: Minister of Environment and Land – KAMANZI Stanislas	
10:00 – 10:30 am	HEALTH BREAK	
10:30 – 11:15 am	SoER SECTIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Environment, People and Development; ✓ State of the Environment; ✓ Environmental governance – Now and in the Future Presenter: REMA (Alex Mulisa)	
11:15– 12:30 pm	Discussions	Hon. Senator NZIRASANAHO Anastase
12:30 – 1:30 pm	LUNCH	
1:30- 2:15 pm	FINANCING ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Public Environment Expenditure Review (PER); ✓ Environmental Fiscal Reform (EFR); ✓ Fund for Environment. Presenter: Dr. Rose MUKANKOMEJE, DG REMA	
2:15- 3:15 pm	Discussions	
3:15 – 4:15 pm	Parliament and Environment agenda in Rwanda: Action planning; Recommendations, and forward looking national environmental agenda	Hon. Senator UMULISA

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4:15 – 4:30 pm	HEALTH BREAK	
4:30 – 5:00pm	Discussions & Review field visit arrangements	REMA/Parliamentary committee on environment
18TH MAY 2010		
7:30 – 3:00pm	Field visit	REMA/Parliamentary committee in charge of Agriculture and environment
4:00 – 5:30pm	Resolutions (Declaration) and Closing	Hon. Speaker of Chambers of Deputies

FIELD VISITS: Bugesera, Rugezi and Rubaya, Gicumbi District

The field visits have been organized in three groups such that each group will visit a site in a preselected part of the country. Following below is a brief on the areas and specific activities that will be showcased for analysis and discussions during the field visits.

1) Ecosystem rehabilitation: The case of Rugezi wetland

Rugezi Wetlands demonstrate ecosystem degradation and the impacts on livelihoods. Unregulated agricultural activities practiced mainly by populations living in the proximity of the wetland led to declining water levels and as a result, diminishing energy supply from power stations at Ntaruka. The result of the fall in water levels was load shedding of electricity supply that led to escalation of Electrogaz tariff from RWF 48 to 120. To address the energy problem the government purchased diesel generators. It is indicated by EUI (2006) that these arrangements cost the government US \$ 65,000 a day to maintain the generators in operation. But more devastating is the impact of degradation on livelihoods of communities in and around Rugezi.

In the case study it was found out that wild goods have diminished or disappeared. Wild animals and medicinal herbs have disappeared while fish is on the verge of being decimated.

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2) Rubaya demonstration project

The demonstration project was undertaken to demonstrate environment and poverty links in Gicumbi; and experiment how integrated approaches can effectively address the identified challenges, through practical scientific principles. These demonstration projects are grounded in local innovation and realities. The thematic issues that are part of the demo design are summarized in the following table 1.

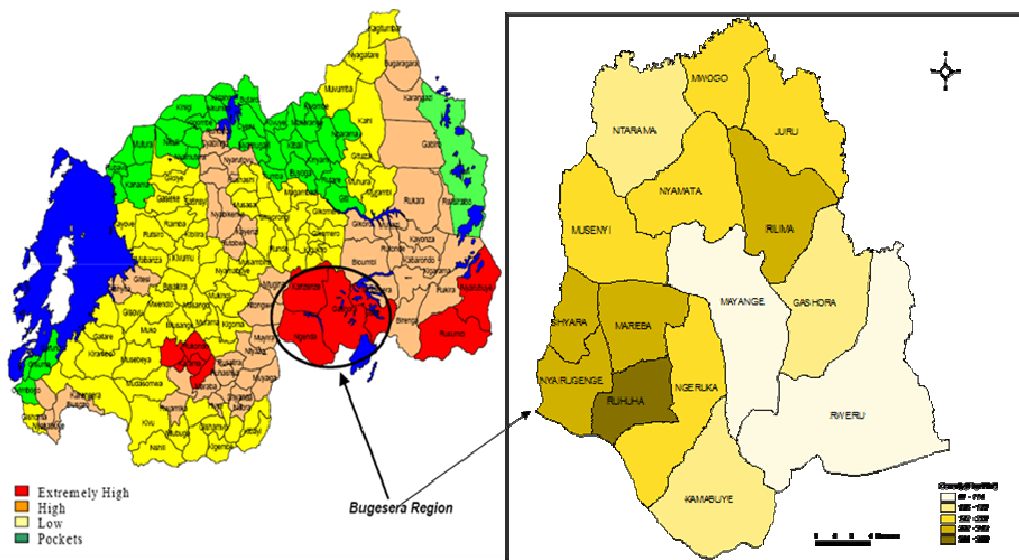
Table 1: Key Poverty-environmental issues for the demonstration project

	Issues	Poverty issues	How?
1	Access to clean water for drinking and domestic use	- women & children have to travel long distances, spend many hours & use a lot of energy fetching water, - poor hygiene due to lack of/rational use of water High drop-out of girl-child linked to access to clean water & hygiene.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce/disseminate appropriate technologies for water harvesting • simple irrigation technologies, especially for home horticultural gardens & intensive smallholder farming • watershed protection to prevent run-off erosion & natural purification; • On-farm conservation technologies to trap, retain & conserve soil water
2	Access to energy	- women & youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alternative renewable – biogas
3	Food security & nutrition	- inadequate food production due to declining land productivity & lack of improved inputs; - malnutrition among children & women due to lack of disposable incomes & adequate food.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • land productivity enhancement through soil & water conservation; • provide cows (improved varieties) to poor households; • enhanced use of external inputs as fertilisers & pesticides using local innovation • Value-addition through agro-processing, and agro-marketing; • Improved knowledge, attitudes & practices (KAP) in nutrition & food hygiene;
4	Incomes	Savings through cooperatives and other income generating activities such as agro forestry and agro processing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scaling up agric & non-agric employment based on programmes and skills in environmental & natural resources conservation activities; • Reducing vulnerability to social & environmental disasters through diversified income sources
5	Crosscutting: participatory ENR governance	- inadequate participation due to lack of awareness about the rights, obligations in ENR services, and inability to hold leaders & external projects to account;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • undertake sensitization of communities, local leaders & other actors about Envnt-livelihoods-poverty-development links, and their roles; • train community leaders, cooperatives, associations & local authorities on P-E links/ issues – using the demo as a practical tool; • organise participatory (monitoring, evaluation & learning (M&EL) sessions; • train youth, women to manage ENR and how to identify & harness opportunities;

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3) Bugesera



The region has experienced recent droughts that have brought a sense of urgency to protect ecosystems, as part of the broader sustainable development strategy. Food shortages, water and fuel wood scarcity and their impact on livelihoods and contribution to poverty reduction efforts were analysed and understood in the study on Integrated Environmental Assessment (IEA) conducted in the region in 2006.

The use of crop residues for cooking has been on the rise, but crop residues also serve as the sole source of fertility for the agricultural soils. Alternative energy sources are not so developed in Bugesera; only the prison of Rilima has recently adopted biogas energy.

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Improved mud stoves are commonly used by the region's households to reduce dependence on fuel-wood.

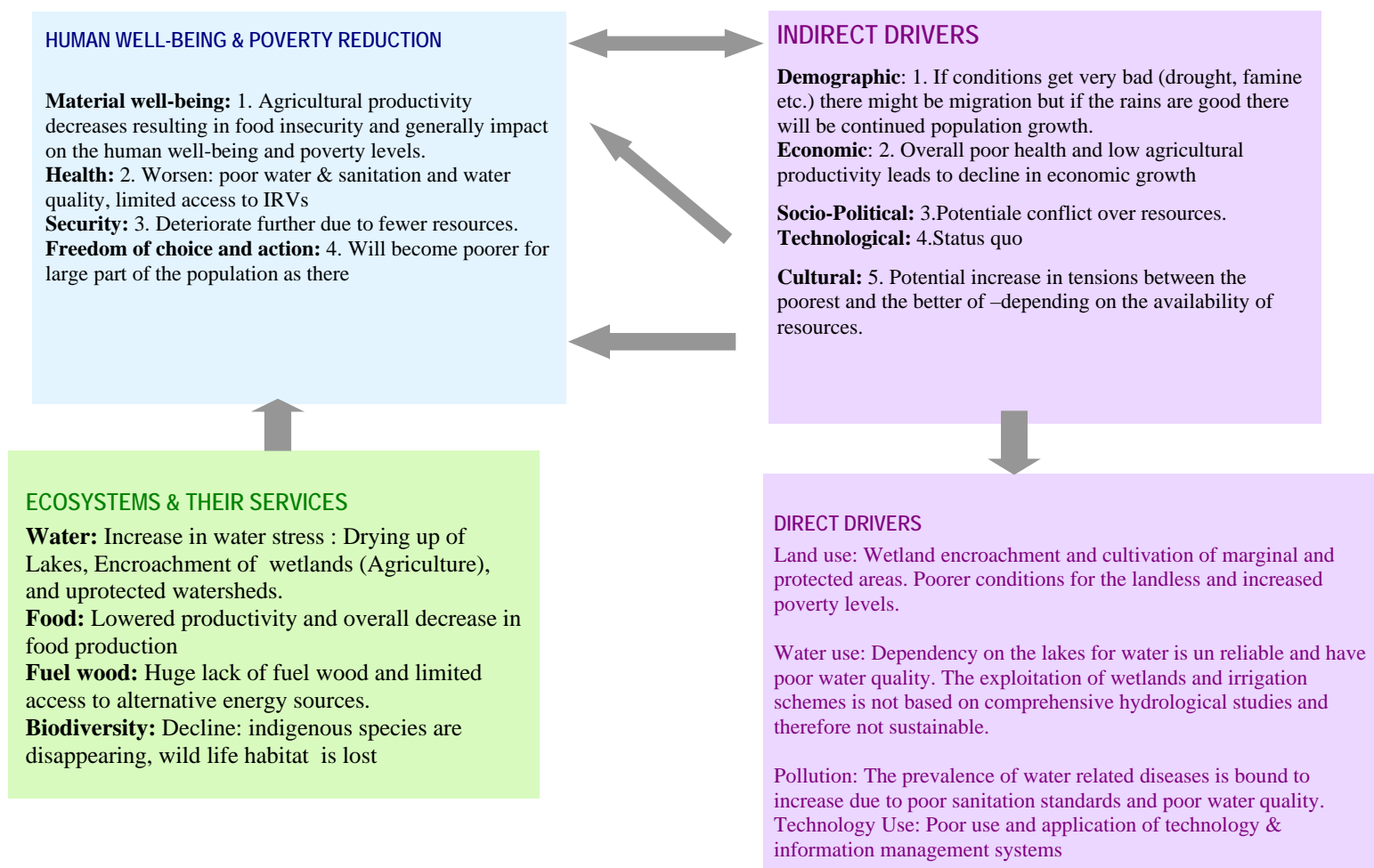
Current policy options are addressing the urgent needs for energy alternatives by targeting major fuel wood consumers towards adoption of environmentally-friendly energy alternatives like biogas; increase tree cover through reforestation and also agro-forestry to ensure poor families have access and can afford fuel wood; and raising awareness on environmental management. These policy options are increasingly being adopted by local communities. However, there is still need for clearer policy options at local and national planning levels to ensure that environmental priorities are appropriately integrated into policy frameworks in support of sustainable development.

The field visit will target areas that have experienced environmental stresses such as Lake Cyohoha North and locations where interventions have demonstrated recovery from past environment related pressures. These include areas where initiatives for addressing environment – poverty issues exist such as the Millennium Village, Rilima prison and Gako military establishment.

There has been no clear policy on the protection of water bodies and wetlands in the recent past to reverse and prevent depletion and unsustainable use of freshwater resources. The lack of a coordinated and coherent policy framework makes it difficult to manage the multiple interests in water resources sectors, and the likelihood that any interventions will be less effective. The severe and prolonged droughts that have resulted in food insecurity in the past, despite abundant water resources, point to the need for increased technological capacity to improve the use of water as an ecosystem service.

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Scenario setting: What might happen in the absence of policy relevant decisions and actions



Conclusion

Rwanda has a formidable challenge of reversing the trends of ecosystems degradation and scarcity of environmental goods and services. The case of natural resource management (NRM) has to be argued and advocated for to ensure sustainability of national economic development. At policy level NRM has to be part of the efforts to reach Millennium Goals and to ensure natural resources, land use and environment gain adequate policy attention in order to attract adequate resources for effective management of the resources. The dissemination of the first State of the Environment in Rwanda and the ongoing overall environment mainstreaming efforts starting with the parliament is a critical input towards broader national support for improving environmental management.

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ACTION PLANNING MATRIX

LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION	ISSUES	RECOMMENDATIONS	OUTPUTS	TIME LINE
PARLIAMENT	Environmental management agenda	Engage with Parliamentary committees		
		Formation of a Parliamentary forum for environment		
		Formation of a regional network for effective partnership on environmental management		
		To ensure that all laws support environmental management for sustainable development		
GoR institutions	Integrating environment into other sectors	To provide oversight over implementation of environmental commitment by sectors		
Local levels		To verify compliance for effective environmental management		
		Budget: Allocation & Expenditure		
		Advocacy for diversifying Financing options for environment		
Non-governmental				

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institutions:				
Private sector	Promote participation of PS in environmental management			
Research institutes	Support partnership for enhancing environmental research			

FIELD VISITS AND GROUP WORK: A GUIDE

<u>GROUPS</u>	<u>SITE</u>	<u>KEY ISSUES</u>	<u>INTERVENTIONS</u>	<u>Members</u>
Goup1	UMUDUGUDU W'IKITEGEREZO, NYAMIYAGA AKAGARI KA NYAGATOVU; UMURENGE WA RUBAYA;	<i>The major issues are livelihoods challenges intertwined with extreme environmental stress that is a larger experience and representation of the national picture. Need to focus resources to address these challenges to support sustainable national development.</i> Fragile ecosystem: Steep hill slopes – soil erosion and fertility loss leads to poor agricultural production; poor nutrition, water stress; limited access to energy sources due to	Integrated environmental management and poverty reduction initiative: Resettlement into Umudugudu, Terraces, Rain water harvesting, One-cow per family, Clean and efficient energy, Biogas, sanitation, Agroforestry and sustainable livelihoods.	Names:

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		<p>deforestation. High population density and poverty levels.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Need awareness</i> 2. <i>Scale up but REMA cannot do it</i> 3. <i>Need ownership of relevant institutions</i> 4. <i>Resources</i> 	
Group 2	<p>Bugesera: Rilima prison, Gashora L. Cyohoha North, Biryogo; Mayange -</p>	<p><i>Water: Increase in water stress: Drying up of Lakes, Encroachment of wetlands (Agriculture), and unprotected watersheds.</i> <i>Food: Lowered productivity and overall decrease in food production</i> <i>Fuel wood: Huge lack of fuel wood and limited access to alternative energy sources.</i> <i>Biodiversity: Decline: indigenous species are disappearing, wild life habitat is lost.</i></p> <p>Stressed ecosystem in terms of climate variability which affects well-being; vulnerability to drought, water stress, adverse impact on agricultural productivity and food insecurity, scarcity of energy resources and overall stress to livelihoods. Population pressure which is driving inward migrations Lack of leveraging technology to address livelihood challenges.</p>	<p>Integrated ecosystem Assessment has supported understanding of the issues and linkages and has created momentum in public awareness and has triggered response interventions and informing policy reforms. Planning for watershed protection and irrigation interventions; energy efficiency and alternative sources, sustainable livelihoods. Large scale water projects and infrastructure including roads and airport.</p>	

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Group 3	Rugezi wetlands: Akarere ka BULERA; RUSUMO FALLS; Lakes BULERA and RUHONDO power stations, BURELA resettlement schemes.	Fragile Ecosystems with steep hill slopes; Small holder, subsistence agriculture-based cannot support sustainable livelihoods; Population pressure and the socio-economic activities have exert pressure and threat to Biodiversity. Agricultural activities in a wetland; Declining water levels in the Lakes affecting power generation.	Rusumo falls – MININFRA constructing 2 Mega Watt hydroelectric power station, Relocation and Resettlement of populations in the proximity of Rugezi; land consolidation and Umudugudu (resettlement alternatives)	
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