

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (RIO+20)

NATIONAL PREPARATORY PROCESS

National Report for Rwanda

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For

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rwanda has been elected to participate in the national preparatory process in advance of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) to take place in Rio de Janeiro from 20th to 22nd, June 2012.

This report summarizes the progress made in Rwanda in terms of environment and sustainable development since the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; referred as Earth Summit. This summary is based on secondary data from different national reports as documented in the stocktaking report and inputs from different stakeholders.

There is greater evidences that number of achievements and challenges from different sectors (Environment and natural resources management, Agricultural productivity and livestock, Transport and Energy, Trade and Regional Integration, and Human Development and Social Sectors) was identified to inform on areas that need more attention in the next wave of environment and sustainable development in Rwanda.

Rwanda has promoted integrated planning and decision making process through different planning and development approaches. The Economic Development and Poverty Reduction strategy (EDPRS) is the leading planning tool opted after the PRSPs since 2008. Other tools aligned on the EDPRS include the sector strategic plan (with a 5 years planning horizon), District Development Plan, Long Term Investment Framework (LTIF), and Medium Term Expenditure Framework.

Findings of this report show also areas that need closer attention by the policy makers to support the process of green economy in the context of sustainable development. One of the prominent area that captured more attention is the role of the private sector in economic development. Despite greater efforts made in the past to encourage the private sector play its role, there is yet a need to enhance public private partnerships for a sustained development. The Private Sector is assumed to play major role along the value chain especially in transforming the agriculture sector.

Capacity building (both skilled human and financial resources) to meet the demands of each sector in terms of activity implementation was also highlighted as a restraining factor towards sustainable development. More specifically, the role of Monitoring and Evaluation is found key in terms of capacity building to inform processors on their achievements and constraints. Similarly, some sectors are yet to develop their database to serve as benchmarks for their evaluation. The Role of the National Institute of Statistics in this area is highly needed and recommended.

This report outlines also the importance that Rwanda has attached to institutional transformation. different institutional innovations (in the broad sense of structures, policies, regulations) drive the development in various sectors of economy.. Although complementary towards sustainable development, the challenge remains on how and the extent to which these are being integrated by local governments (District and Sectors) in their respective District Development Plans and Imihigo – Performance Contracts. Therefore, there is need to

establish a framework that ease the coordination of different initiatives around green economy and sustainable development.

In all, apart from the above areas highlighted for more consideration, findings from this report show that Rwanda has made tremendous efforts towards environment and sustainable development. Thus, results of this report form a basis for future perspectives of Rwanda in terms of a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and the institutional framework for sustainable development.

I. BACKGROUND

I.I. Introduction

Rwanda has been elected to participate in the national preparatory process in advance of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) to take place in Rio de Janeiro from 20th to 22nd, June 2012. This is a follow up of other previous UNCSD held in the past mainly that of 3rd to 14th, June 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. After ten years, Rwanda participated also in the RIO+10 World Summit held in Johannesburg, South Africa , September 2002. In this summit Rwanda presented its national report on sustainable development and the implementation of the Agenda 21.

The 2002 national report evaluated the progress made in different areas of sustainable development during the period 1992-2001. These areas include socio-economic dimensions, management of natural resources, partnerships with different stakeholders including civil societies, and the execution of Agenda 21. This report was prepared through a participatory process involving different stakeholders who dare to address issues related to environment and sustainable development.

In this connection, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) has availed its support for a national consultative workshop to facilitate multi-stakeholder consultations in advance of the Rio+20 Conference of June 2012. The motivation is to build national capacity to engage fully in the Rio+20 process as well as to ensure continuing efforts to implement the outcomes of the upcoming Conference.

The national preparation process consists of three consecutive and interlinked phases. All three phases contribute to the preparation of the national report document while building capacity on the issues of sustainable development. These three phases comprise: the preparation of a stocktaking report (based on consultations of key informants and desk review); a multi-stakeholder consultative meeting that addresses the issues of the UNCSD; and the outcomes of both the stocktaking exercise and multi-stakeholder meeting will be documented in a synthesis national report. More details about the three phases are detailed in Sub-section I.3.

I.2. Context of the study

Rwanda has participated and subscribed to resolutions and agreements of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held at Rio de Janeiro during 3rd to 14th June, 1992 in Brazil, referred as Earth Summit. After ten years, a World summit was organized in 2002 (Rio+10) to evaluate the progress made so far with respect to environment and sustainable development. It is in the same line that this report comes to evaluate the progress made by Rwanda after 20 years (Rio+20) for the UNCED planned to take place in Rio de Janeiro from 20th to 22nd, June 2012.

The logic of this report stands as a review of the progress made in various development areas in the last two decades, the current status, and future perspectives in terms of green economy and sustainable development. The intention is to document actions taken by Rwanda, challenges encountered in the implementation of RIO resolutions as well as the successes made in different areas such as agriculture, transport, energy, climate change, biodiversity, land degradation, water, and socioeconomic dimensions (such as hunger and poverty eradication). This will enable a number of expected outcomes from the upcoming conferences to be identified through a consultative process with different stakeholders. Results from consultation with different stakeholders shed light on future perspectives relative to green economy and sustainable development in Rwanda.

I.3. Objectives

The overall objective of this study is to facilitate the national consultative workshop in Rwanda for national preparatory process of the UNCSD to take place in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012. More specifically, the study intends:

- To generate a stocktaking report that will guide the country multi-stakeholder consultations in advance of the Rio+20 conference.
- To create an environment that facilitates more engagement by different stakeholders in the process of achieving consensus on key success stories and gaps to be addressed relative to green economy and sustainable development at country level, and future prospects.
- To decide on how to ensure continuing efforts to implementing the outcomes of the 2012 Rio Conference.

The last two objectives will be achieved through the multi-stakeholders consultative meeting to be organized. Findings of this stocktaking report deals with the first objective.

I.4. Assessment Approach and Materials of the study

Reference made to the nature of the assignment, the methodology used is mainly participatory in the sense that opinions of key stakeholders in sustainable development in Rwanda were collected and documented. Preparation and facilitation of the multi-stakeholders consultative meeting constitutes a conducive environment for this participatory approach. Another component of this participatory approach lies under cooperation between different institutions involved in the design and implementation of this study. These comprise the Ministry of Natural Resources, Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA), Rwanda Natural Resources Authority (RNRA), the UNDESA (for overall direction), and UNDP-Rwanda. The logic of this study involves mainly three phases as suggested in the terms of reference.

Phase 1. Stocktaking report

In order to prepare a good stocktaking report within the remaining timeframe, a review of relevant documentation (such as national strategies, assessment reports, plans, policies, capacity needs assessments, and practical experiences, NBSAPs, NAPAs) will feed into a deeper understanding of the current status of Rwanda in terms of environment protection/management and socioeconomic development. The national report of Rwanda presented in 2002 at the World Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa serves as one of key references for the 2012 national report. Other reference documents include the Rwanda Vision 2020, the PRS and EDPRS Self-assessment report (2008-2011), the MDG evaluation report, District EDPRS self-assessment Reports, Sector-specific EDPRS self-Assessment Reports, State of the environment report (REMA, 2009), From Post-Conflict to environmentally Sustainable Development (UNEP, 2011), and other resource documents to be identified in the course of the study. Therefore, the current aims to give the progress made so far by Rwanda in the last two decades based on information from a desk review of the above documents, among others.

From this review, key gaps were identified for each sector of which responsible institution (s) provided additional information and , proposed respective actions and future prospects. In addition, Information gained at this stage from different stakeholders were used to complement existing secondary data for the stocktaking report and for this national report. The first draft of the stocktaking report was sent to different and institutions identified from the desk review for them to feed other relevant information for this report.

Phase 2. Multi-stakeholder consultative meeting

Due to the time constraint, this meeting did not take place. However, the Ministry of Natural Resources, REMA, and UNDP Country Office contacted a number of knowledgeable and senior representatives from central government Institutions (such as MINEDUC & HLIs, MoH, MINIRENA, MINECOFIN, Ministry of Trade and Industry, and Ministry of Agriculture, MININFRA), International Organizations, donor organizations, private sector, and major groups representatives (such as women, children, farmers, youth, trade unions and others) to give their inputs on the stocktaking report produced at phase 1. Information obtained at this stage in addition to the stocktaking report added value to the preparation and the writing of the national report (Phase 3, below).

Phase 3. Preparation of Draft National Report

Information obtained at phases 1 and 2 allowed us to have this synthesis report. This report will focus on the UNCSD objectives and themes in the context of the traditional themes of sustainable development, the present situation, experiences gained, and aspirations of the country. The report focused on the following aspects : key issues and barriers affecting sustainable development , options for green economy from different perspectives (government, major groups and donors), what institutional arrangement needed to sustain goals of Sustainable Development (SD), major recommendations to strengthen the national sustainable development agenda based on the multi-stakeholders dialogue and the outcomes of the stakeholders consultations .

I.5. Scope of Assessment

The scope of assessment is at country level for the last decade. This assessment will determine the current status of Rwanda's sustainability measured through social, economic, and environmental indicators. Reference will be made to commitments of Rwanda in RIO in 1992, RIO+10 in 2002, and the orientation of Rwanda for the next decade (Vision 2020). In addition to progress made by Rwanda, the assessment will contribute to the knowledge of encountered challenges towards sustainable development and recommend new areas for actions. For this purpose, there are many government line ministries and institutions concerned with issues of green and sustainable development and these added value to this report: Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Education (MINEDUC), Higher Learning Institutions, Office of the Prime Minister (PRIMATURE) (for Gender issues), and Ministry of Infrastructure (MININFRA).

I.6. Structure of the Report

This report is constructed around a number of Sections about environment and sustainable development in Rwanda. Together, these sections explore the successes, challenges, current status, institutional arrangements, and future perspectives of Rwanda, with focus to green economy and sustainable development. More specifically, Section 2 gives a brief overview of major resolutions and agreements of Rio, while Section 3 gives definitions of some of key concepts used in this report. Section 4 provides the current status of sustainable development in Rwanda. We present in the same section key challenges and success factors for sustainable development with closer attention to environment and natural resources management, socio-economic dimensions, partnerships, and implementation of Agenda 21, *among others*. In Section 5, the report outlines the institutional arrangement opted by Rwanda to support sustainable development. The last Section concludes the report.

2. AN OVERVIEW OF MAJOR RESOLUTIONS AND AGREEMENTS OF RIO EARTH SUMMIT(S)

2.1. RIO Earth Summit

The Earth summit grouped more than 178 governments represented by Heads of State or Government adopted a number of resolutions also known as the Earth Summit Agreements. These agreements are grouped under three major categories aimed at changing the traditional approach to development (See United Nations Report, 1997):

- Agenda 21 a comprehensive programme of action for global action in all areas of sustainable development;
- The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development — a series of principles defining the rights and responsibilities of States;
- The Statement of Forest Principles — a set of principles to underlie the sustainable management of forests worldwide.

The Agenda 21 contains detailed proposals for developmental actions in different areas such as social and economic areas, and for conserving and managing the natural resources that are the basis for life. The underpinning assumption for participating government is that ‘the integration of development and environmental concerns will lead to the fulfillment of basic needs, improved standards for all, better protected and better managed ecosystems and a safer and a more prosperous future’ (United Nations Report, 1997). In addition, development actions should consider and strengthen the role of different groups namely women, farmers, trade unions, children and youth, and Non-Governmental Organizations towards sustainable development.

The RIO declaration resulted from the United Nations Conference for Sustainable development held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil for the period of June 3rd to 14th, 1992. This declaration guides States on issues regarding environment and sustainable development. Participant-countries agreed on 27 principles indicating the rights and responsibilities of States with respect to environment and sustainable development. They also constitute fixed benchmarks for member of states in addressing concerns of environment and sustainable development. The principles are detailed in the report of the UNCED (1992).

The Statement of Forest Principles was the first global consensus reached out for the sustainable management of forests (United Nations, 1997). Among its provisions include the following (United Nations, 1992):

- That all countries, notably developed countries, should make an effort to “green the world” through reforestation and forest conservation;
- That States have a right to develop forests according to their socio-economic needs, in keeping with national sustainable development policies; and
- That specific financial resources should be provided to develop programmes that encourage economic and social substitution policies.

In 2002, the representatives of the peoples of the world, assembled at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 2 to 4 September 2002, reaffirmed their commitment to sustainable development. The main reason for this summit was to evaluate what was achieved in relation to Rio agreements of 1992. Rwanda also participated and has presented the progress made after 10 years and the way forward in different areas of sustainable development. Among the perspectives opted at this time include the following (MINITERRE, 2002:68):

- To finalize the writing of Agenda 21 which was already under construction so that this may serve as reference in the implementation of Rio recommendations.
- Programme actions will continue to address issues of poverty eradication, improve health conditions, environmental degradation, resources management, basic infrastructure such as access to potable water, electricity, education, roads, telecommunication, and population growth.
- Continue reinforcing the process of decentralization and good governance already undertaken by Rwanda. In this line, the central government will support local government for environmental management. This was supposed to facilitate local government execute local plans regarding environmental protection in line with local specificities.

2.2. Objectives and Themes for Rio+ 20

The main objective of the Rio+20 is ‘to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, and address new and emerging challenges’ (UNCSD, 2012)I. The assessment of the progress in terms of environment and sustainable development will consider the period of the last 20 years since the first Earth summit in 1992. Accordingly, two main themes constitute the focus of the conference: a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and (b) the institutional framework for sustainable development.

I UNCSD (2012). [Internet]. Rio+20- United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. Accessed from : <http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/objectiveandthemes.html>. On 22nd May, 2012.

3. DEFINITION OF KEY CONCEPTS

3.1. Meaning of Green Economy

There is no agreement on a common definition of a green economy and rather than seeking one definition, there is a consensus on focusing more on approaches and national policies consistent with the general understanding of a green economy's effects. Some countries argue that a green economy must contribute to advancing sustainable development, reinforcing its three pillars which are economic growth, human development and environmental protection. It should embrace both development and environment agendas and help to create new jobs. The African Development Forum held in 2010, agreed that the concept of green economy aimed at improving human well-being without undermining the resource base that current and future generation depend on for their livelihoods. Green economy policies include the internationalization of environmental externalities in prices, taxes and subsidies, public expenditures on green infrastructure and technology, renewable energy, energy and material efficiency improvements and sustainable buildings.

3.2. The Concept of Sustainable Development in Rwanda

Sustainable development is a pattern of economic growth in which resource use aims to meet human needs while preserving the environment so that these needs can be met not only in the present, but also for the future generations. In other words, it is the development as that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (UN World Commission on Environment and Development Report, 1987). Sustainable development takes into account society, environment and economic factors conceptualized as pillars in order to ensure a more balanced form of development. As documented in REMA (2010), there are different models of sustainable development. For instance Hatting's model is a three –sphere model from which three pillars are intertwined and they embrace a holistic approach of in the process of sustainable development as depicted by Figure I (REMA, 2010², citing, Hatting, 2005).

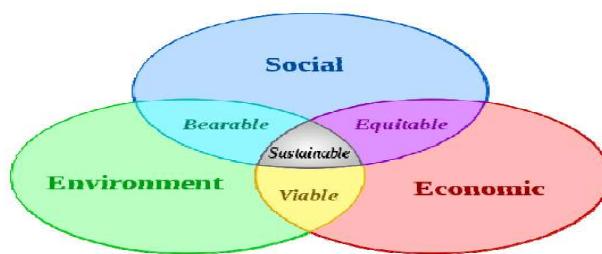


Figure I: Sustainable Development (Hatting, 2005), cited byREMA (2010)

² REMA (2010). Rwanda Environmental Education for Sustainable Development Strategy: A strategy and Action Plan for 2010-2015. Rwanda Environment Management Authority, Kigali, Rwanda.

3.3. Institutional Framework

An effective institutional framework is key for sustainable development at all levels. It facilitates the full implementation and follow up of the agenda of the development. It should lead to the strengthening of international bodies and organizations dealing with sustainable development, while respecting their existing mandates, as well as to the strengthening of relevant regional, national and local institutions. Solid institutions responsive to the needs of the people and improved infrastructure are the basis for sustained economic growth, poverty eradication, and employment creation.

4. CURRENT STATUS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN RWANDA COMPARED TO RI0+10

4.I.Introduction

The assessment of sustainable development is mostly done with reference to ‘three pillars’- economic growth, human development and environmental protection. These can be examined at local, national, regional or global levels.

Rwanda has implemented the first Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRSP) from 2002 to 2005 to manage the transitional period of rehabilitation and reconstruction after the period of war and genocide against the Tutsi (MINECOFIN, 2011)³. Good progress was achieved with good results in social sectors (health and education) than in productive sectors including agriculture, infrastructure and the private sector. Thus, these performances were not translated in significant reduction of poverty and inequality⁴.

In order to respond to constraints faced during the implementation of PRSPI, a new Economic Development and Poverty Reduction (EDPRS) strategy was developed for the period 2008-2012, focusing on three flagship programmes: sustainable growth for jobs and exports, vision 2020 Umurenge program to address the issue of extreme poverty and vulnerability, especially in rural areas as well as the governance focused on maintaining peace and security. The EDPRS guides the development of sector strategic plans and districts development plans.

The overall objective of the EDPRS was to reduce the share of the population living in poverty from 56.9% in 2005-6 to 46% in 2012-13. The EICV III shows that this target is already surpassed one year before the end of EDPRS. In 2011, 44.9% of the population was under the poverty line and the share of people living in the extreme poverty was 24.1% against the target of 24%, which is a decline of 37%, compared with 2005-6. The assessment of the EDPRS shows that more than 85% of the targets have been met, exceeded or is highly on track to be achieved. The implementation rate of policy actions was very high (96%) as 485 out of 504 policy actions are fully implemented.

The good result was achieved due to the participation of the population, home grown initiatives such as umuganda, the ownership of the EDPRS by all stakeholders and the alignment of all resources to the framework of the EDPRS, adequate institutional and legal framework, improved service delivery with ICT based solutions.

³ MINECOFIN (2011). EDPRS: Lessons Learned 2008-2011. Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Kigali, Rwanda.

⁴ MINECOFIN (March 2011). 3- years of the economic development and poverty reduction (EDPRS). A summary implementation report. 2008-2010.

However, the following shortcomings were identified: lack of exhaustive and well-articulated strategies in some sectors, issues related to disaster management and risk reduction, regional integration and climate change, insufficient coordination and communication across sectors and between central and local government entities, poor procurement planning and insufficient capacity of private sectors which have delayed some important projects. In this chapter we present main achievements as well as challenges in different sectors.

4.2. Environment and Natural Resource Management

2.1.1. Water Resource Management

The EDPRS focuses on water management and development for its multi-use. It has not however, considered the cross cutting nature of water resources management and the impact of climate change and other environment changes which could have negative impact on water resources⁵.

Regarding the legal and institutional framework, a law governing water has been approved in 2009 and it is operational. The water resources management sector policy is being finalized and the water resources management strategy (2011-2016) is completed. Its objective is to ensure that water resources in Rwanda are conserved and managed in an integrated and equitable manner to meet the country needs (economic, social and ecological), while taking care of trans-boundary interest and international environment obligations. A department of water resources management was created in 2011 and is still working on its staffing and institutional capacity development in the Ministry of Infrastructure. The absence of this department and delays in developing the sector and sub sector strategies resulted mainly in limited financial support from donors or unfulfilled commitments. In water resources management, the implementation of EDPRS began with challenges in the water resources management sector mainly due to the lack of a clear institutional framework. However with the new water resources policy and strategy in the process of approval, the establishment of an integrated water resources management department under the Rwanda Natural Resources Authority, and of a water resources management thematic working group under the Environment and Natural Resources Sector Working Group, there is enough ground work to improve the results of the WRM in the EDPRS2. The WRM department is in process of starting the preparation of water resources master plan which will give a strong basis to prioritize the water use based on existing and planned water demand and needs, against the quantity and quality of water available.

Challenges and way forward

The finalization of strategies on water management was delayed due to the fact that they are aligned to the EDPRS but with a longer life-span. There will be a need to make sure that the second generation of EDPRS accommodates water strategies. Even though the budget preparation since 2008, required alignment of the budget with the EDPRS priorities, it is not

⁵Ministry of natural resources. Environment and natural resources sector EDPRS self-assessment report.

clear how this was put into practice in the sub-sector. This resulted in implementing activities which were contributing to EDPRS but without clear indicator for monitoring.

There is need to increase the integration between the different sectors (Ministries) which use / supply water. This will improve the water use efficiency and also improve its conservation ultimately. This will require the newly established water resources department to be pro-active in assessing policies and strategies of different sectors and help the Government to prioritise the use of water by different sectors. The sector also needs to work closely with other sectors and capture all activities related to the improvement of water resources.

2.I.2. Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity

There are significant results achieved in this sector in Rwanda. It was planned to increase the proportion of protected areas for biodiversity preservation from 8% to 10% in 2012. Currently this target has been out surpassed as it is 10.3% (MINIRENA, 2011)⁶. Critical ecosystems have been mapped, assessed, rehabilitated, mostly wetlands and riverbanks and lakeshores. Concerning the legal, regulatory, policy and institutional framework, commendable results have been realized through development and dissemination of legal and regulatory instruments in regard to environmental management and protection. . Public awareness and broad national sensitization for environmental management has been successfully conducted across the country (Central and decentralized levels, private sector, civil society, NGOs, environment clubs, schools, environmental campaigns, etc). The strategy to implement environment education for sustainable development has been developed; awareness material and training modules were developed and disseminated; different ministries including MINAGRI, MINECOFIN, MINICOM, MINIRENA, MINALOC, MINEDUC, MININFRA, MINISANTE, MINIJUST were supported to integrate national environment priorities and commitments into sector planning, budgeting and implementation, check lists and indicators to integrate environment in sector and district development plan were prepared and made accessible, extensive trainings on mainstreaming environment and climate change have conducted targeting mainly central and decentralized staff in charge of planning, EDPRS facilitators, and District environment officers. Of notable importance, is the undergoing process of creating an environment and climate change fund.

Due to the above success factors or initiatives, the pollution of the environment has been significantly reduced by banning plastic bags, ozone depleting substances and other persistent organic pollutants. Measurable progress including EIA review and approval process has been registered and this improved the business and investment climate. Protected areas management and conservation have been supported to realize tourism potential and economic value that contributed to national development.

The implementation of the environment and climate change strategic plan requires broader partnership and institutional responsibility than REMA. In this line, the sector Wide Approach (SWAP) for ENR provides an opportunity to realize this requirement.

⁶ MINERENA (2011). Environment and natural resources sector EDPRS self-assessment report. Ministry of Natural Resources, Kigali, Rwanda.

Challenges

Despite this good achievement, there are some key challenges faced by the sector in the implementation and evaluation of its program. They include weak system of data collection in the environment and natural resources as well as inadequate baseline data for natural resources and environment sector, low level of awareness and appreciation of environment issues among business sector and local government structures which increase the cost of enforcement and monitoring and low level of coordination between different sectors (central, local government and civil society) in planning and implementing policies, low level of institutional capacity and specialization of civil society organizations to manage the environment.

In addition, the environment and climate change sub sector remains under funded, despite modest increases in budget allocation and donor support to the sector. This limits long term investments in both physical ecosystems protection and institutional capacity development. In addition, some programs with development partners have problems with timely disbursement and financial management.

There is also a problem of high turnover of staff and organizational restructuring which impact the efficacy of investment in training and systems development and performance of the sub sector especially at District level.

4.2.3 Land management

Land is one of key factors of production and its use and management has to be carried out in a sustainable and rational manner. The National Land Policy developed in 2004 through a wide consultation and participation calls for land reforms both in tenure system and land use and management. To take into consideration the dynamic in land management, it was planned that the policy be reviewed every 5 years to accommodate new realities on ground. As part of the environment and natural resources sector a land sub sector strategic plan was developed in 2010 after the development of the strategic plan for the broader sector of environment and natural resources.

The land sector strategic plan has four strategic objectives: ensure sustainable and rational land use in Rwanda through a comprehensive national land use master plan; ensure security and rational land tenure for all land claimants through systematic land tenure regularization; strengthen land administration and ensure coherence of national land policy with the Africa land Policy Framework and Guidelines taking into consideration the sub regional integration context. Intended results during the EDPRS period in the land sector are being achieved. Some institutional arrangements have been made to sustain the implementation of land policy : the office of registrar of land titles in 2007; the national land centre at the national level and land bureaux at district levels in 2008.

The land sector strategy addresses governance theme through land legislation, reduction of land conflicts, public participation and transparency in land tenure regulation, provision of

collateral, collection of land fees for local governments and land use planning for better development.

Challenges and way forward

The existing structures for the implementation of land policy are not well equipped and staffed (such as land committee at cell level). Frequent reforms which in some cases took long to be effective have at some extent hindered the implementation of some policies. In addition, there were some conflicting decisions due to the fact that the land institutional framework was new so that it was difficult to people, especially at distinct level to understand their roles and responsibilities.

There is a need of much involving NGO's and CSO's in the policy dialogue to strengthen their role as advocacy for land owners and facilitators in the implementation of the policies. A strategy for land management to deal with land fragmentation and reducing dependency over land (substance agriculture) should be developed; the national land policy of 2004 should be also reviewed to accommodate new development goals.

4.2.4 Forests management

Forests are major component of environment and sustainable development in Rwanda. From historical perspective, we observe that about 70% of the national territory was covered with natural forests but about 60% reduction in the natural forest has also occurred since independence (UNEP, 2011)⁷. However, major reforestation efforts were carried out between 1975-1990 (Africa Forest Forum, 2011). But due to the war and Genocide against Tutsi in 1994, a number of forests were destroyed by displaced people fleeing the war or by new settlements for returning refugees (Africa Forest Forum, 2011). The national report of Rwanda presented at Rio+10 gives an estimate of about 15000 ha of forest plantations that were destroyed and about 35000 ha were negatively affected (MINITERE, 2002)⁸. Furthermore, in 1997 the government encouraged people to share available resources and some state lands (such as national parks) were allocated to settle new returnees (Bizoza, 2011: 159). These few examples, among others, show how deforestation in Rwanda is a major concern.

Findings from the same Africa Forum report (2011) show that some government and donor initiatives since 1999 onwards have greatly boosted the forestry sector in Rwanda. These comprise : the launching of the forest management support project (2003), the first national forest policy in 2004, establishment of revenue sharing program by RDB since 2005, and the adoption of the national forest policy in 2010. The overall goal of this national policy is 'to make the forestry sector one of the bedrocks of economy and national ecological balance for sustainable benefits to all segments of the society' (Ministry of Forests and Mines, 2010).

⁷ UNEP (2011). Rwanda : From Post –Conflict to environmentally sustainable development , Nairobi, Kenya.

⁸ MINITERE (2002). Rapport National du Rwanda sur le développement Durable et la mise en oeuvre de l'Agenda 21. Kigali, Rwanda.

⁹ Bizoza R.A (2011). Farmers, Institutions and land Conservation : Institutional Economic Analysis of Bench Terraces in The Highlands of Rwanda. Thesis, Wageningen University, Wageningen, Netherlands.

Although there are some discrepancies in the estimates of the forest coverage, the FAO (2007 , cited in, UNEP, 2011: 151) suggests that 19.5 % of the land area is covered by the forest while MINIRENA suggest 9.7 % (UNEP, 2011). Nevertheless, these estimates are far from the targets of 30% of forest cover by the Rwanda Vision 2020 (MINIRENA, 2011). The EDPRS target for forest cover is estimated at 23.4% compared last year's achievement estimated at 22.1%. It was planned that the remaining 1.3% of remaining cover will be planted with 67, 000, 000 during 2011. The following Table (I) depicts the protected areas comprising forest reserves and national parks.

Table I: Protected forests and National parks

Name	Management responsibility	Date established	Area (Km2)
Akagera National Park	African Parks Network	1934	1085
Nyungwe National Park	RDB	2004	970
Volcano National Park	RDB	1929	160
Gishwati Forest reserve	NAFA	1933	10
Mukura Forest Reserve	RNRA	1933	16

Source : Adapted from Africa Forest Forum, 2011.

Challenges

A number of constraints of the forestry sector are outlined in the national forestry policy (2010: 26). These include excessive and indiscriminate cutting of forests, uneven distribution of forest resources over the country, low productivity of existing man made forests and poor quality of forest genetic material, low afforestation rate (estimated at 0.029 ha per capita which is low to the FAO standard of 1 ha per person in order to meet ecological balance and wood demand), wasteful conversion, inadequate extension services, and limited land for reforestation and afforestation due to low pace of alternative activities to make free land for forest activities (MINIRENA, 2011).

4.3. Agricultural productivity and Livestock

The main challenge, as expressed by the Rio Conference in 1992, is to increase agricultural production in a sustainable manner so that to respond to ever increasing food needs of the world population and reduce poverty. It is also expressed by the Millennium Development Goal 1 - eradicate hunger and poverty.

Economic development in Rwanda, as in many other developing countries, remains agricultural dominant. The majority of households are employed in agriculture. Therefore,

agriculture sector is conducive for economic growth and poverty reduction (NISR, 2011). For instance, the decline in agricultural productivity explains why incomes have fallen in the mid-1980s (PRSP 2002). Accordingly, the increase of agricultural production in many years have been through expansion of cultivated area rather than through increased productivity. But, since 2000s, numerous strategies have been designed to develop certain areas of agriculture sector. The aim for these strategies is to transform agricultural productivity and to having food security. Thus, the transformation of agriculture and related environmental actions has been central to agricultural strategies in the context of poverty reduction strategies since 2002.

The Ministry of Agriculture implements its activities through its Strategic Plan for Agricultural Transformation (PSTA). The recent one covers the period 2009-2012 and was developed with sub-sector strategies to operationalize EDPRS as well as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP). Consistent with the MDGs, the EDPRS goal is to raise agricultural productivity and ensure food security (MINAGRI, 2011)¹⁰. The progress made with regard to this goal is partly explained by achievements made, in the context of agriculture development, through four interrelated programmes:

- Intensification and development of sustainable production systems
- Support to the professionalization of the producers
- Promotion of Commodity Chains and Agribusiness Development
- Institutional Development

Land holdings remains determinant of agricultural development and poverty reduction. About 90% of the population own land but more than 60% cultivate less than 0.7 hectares (the amount of land required for the average household to live above the poverty line) (UNDP 2010)¹¹

According to statistics from the National Institute of Statistics (EICV 3-2011), 84% of crop-producing households in Rwanda have at least one of their plots protected from erosion. Regionalization of crops has been an important government policy over recent years. 21% of households added an additional type of crop to at least one of their plots. Use of fertilizer use to increase agricultural production has increased from 18% to 38% households in the last five years. While use of chemical fertilisers increased from 11% to 29% of households in the same period. A smaller increase is observed in the use of organic fertilizers (from 7% to 9%).

The same statistics from EICV 3-2011 shows that cattle ownership has considerably increased. Currently, higher proportions about 47% in Rwanda are able to afford cattle. This notable achievement is also supported by the government policy of one cow per poor family known as 'Girinka Programme' initiated by His excellency the president of Rwanda Paul Kagame. But more efforts are to be made in the poorest Southern Province.

Some policies and programmes that have contributed to the progress made in agriculture and livestock include: land tenure regularization, Agricultural reforms (such as crop intensification and regionalization, voucher system to enable access to inputs of farmers, land use

10 MINAGRI, 2011. EDPRS Self-Assessment Report. Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources. Kigali, Rwanda.

11 UNDP (2010). Millennium Development Goals Progress Report. Rwanda Country Report, Kigali, Rwanda.

consolidation), soil and water conservation programmes, and one cow per poor family that enabled many people access cattle; leading to other positive multiplier effects (such as access to manure for agricultural production, more milk and resulted incomes).

Challenges

Although some tremendous achievements have been made towards increased agricultural productivity and food security, some challenges remain in the context of agricultural transformation. The PSTA II (2009-2012) (which is the lead development approach in this very sector) paid little attention to some cross-cutting issues , particularly those that were multi-sectoral but central to agricultural development (e.g. nutrition, environment, access to finance, feeder roads, and gender). It is advised that these insufficiencies will be taken into account in the development of PSTAIII (2013-2017). Similarly, private sector engagement did not receive much attention in the context of PSTAII (2013-2017) and the development of the next PSTA III will have to accommodate this insufficiency. The reason is that ‘private sector development along the value chain can play a central role in transforming agriculture in Rwanda’ (MINAGRI, 2011).

4.4. Transport and Energy

As a basic requirement for the development of national economy, the energy sector is key in Rwanda. The EDPRS energy sector objectives are: increasing access to energy, sustainable tariff structure, diversification of energy resources and security and strengthening of institutional framework and institutional capacity. Positive results have been achieved in terms of access to energy, Tax incentives have been provided for Liquid Petroleum Gas and energy serving devices importation. The electricity law was passed by the cabinet and the electricity tariff structure study has been conducted. The 7 year energy strategic plan (2011) has set more ambitious targets for energy development.

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The priority of the energy sector implementation plan is to increase electricity generation capacity from 96 MW to over 1 000MW by 2017 and access to electricity from 204 000 connections of today to 1 200 000 by 2017, that is achieving an increase of 50%. To achieve this objective, the energy policy has considered a number of cross cutting themes including institutional roles and responsibilities, private sector participation, gender, social inclusion, environment, research and development as well as regional and international cooperation.

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Achievements in the energy sector like dissemination of improved cook stoves and biogas digester construction have contributed to improved health situation for women and children who used to spend most of their time searching for fire wood to be used as fuel. Increased energy efficiency through audit grid and introduction of solar water heaters has contributed to environmental protection.

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Energy targets as defined in the EDPRS related to electricity generation capacity and number of households, institutions and enterprises with access to energy are expected to be met. So far

the number of electricity connections stands at 236 663 by October 2011 and installed capacity is at 100 MW against 350 000 and 160 MW as respective targets by end 2013.

Challenges

The recent 7 year strategic plan (2011) is not aligned to the wider EDPRS and vision 2020 in terms of financial resources and implementation schedule. This poses financing issues to implement the strategic plans in the sector.

The management issues and ongoing institutional reforms need to be strengthened for a better achievement of goals by providing clear mechanisms by which local government should take ownership responsibility of government programs. Concerning the collaboration with donors, technical and financial supports have been effective.

There are risks involved at exploratory stage for geothermal resources development and the participation of the private sector is less likely to happen. In addition, the low participation of the private sector is likely to negatively impact the implementation of generation projects.

In addition, there is no sufficient guidance (such as rules and procedures) on capacity building in the sector, the coordination between policy makers in the sector needs to be improved and separation of responsibilities between policy makers and implementers should be clearly defined. Some of the targets set need to be strongly supported by macroeconomic projections and well documented studies.

4.5. Trade and Regional Integration

Rwanda is a landlocked and resource scarce country with a relatively small market. In its vision 2020, the Government of Rwanda has clearly indicated that regional integration will be one of the responses to these problems. The accession of Rwanda to the East African Community (EAC) on first July 2007 was in this direction and was aiming to contribute to the economic development of the country by strategically placing it in a regional market with 113 million people. This will also increase economic activities and business opportunities through the benefits of economies of scale and attracting foreign investment targeting the regional market. Information on trade benefits in the context of regional integration is yet scarce.

4.6. Human Development and Social Sectors

4.6.I. Education

The EDPRS strategy for education had two objectives: the development of skills for a knowledge based economy and the promotion of science, technology and innovations for economic growth.

The education sector strategic plan (2008-2012) was updated to address key policy and strategic challenges and objectives in the sector (ESSS 2010-2015) as outlined in the EDPRS

as well as the vision 2020. To respond to the high demand of the labor market in terms of skills and competencies, following programs were prioritized: improved access to and quality of upper secondary schools, teacher training colleges, higher learning institutions and demand driven technical and vocational education and training courses (TVET). In addition, the nine year basic education was identified as the foundation for human resource development.

Significant achievement has been realized in the education sector. Important institutional reforms were implemented, including the establishment of the Rwanda Education and Workforce Development Authority to support the achievement of the EDPRS and ESS objectives, particularly for quality education and TVET as well as the adoption of English as the medium of instruction in schools and the nine years basic education (9YBE) fast tracking strategy.

Targets in the education sector as defined in EDPRS are being achieved. The primary school completion rate was 79% in 2011 surpassing the target (78%) for the period 2011-2012 and from a baseline figure of 52% in 2008. The qualified teachers to pupil ratio at primary level is still relatively high. Ahead of the 2012 target of 60:1 is well improved compared to the 2008 figure of 73:1. This improvement is due in part to the recruitment of 2 471 new primary school teachers during the 2010/2011 period and a further 2 146 new primary teachers in 2009/2010.

The transition rate from basic education (S3) to upper secondary (S4) has reached 94% against 2008 baseline of 86% and far surpassing the current target. The current targets of 20% for girls and 30% for boys as percentage of students in science have been surpassed. These percentages are now 21% and 31% respectively. The objective of a demand driven TVET approach is being achieved. Indeed, a baseline survey shows that 63% of employers are satisfied with the skills of TVET graduates.

The Primary Net Enrolment Rate (NER) continues to improve for both girls and boys. The current estimate of 95.4%, has already surpassed the 2012 target of 95%. If this trend continues, Rwanda will be on track to meet the MDG target of 100% net enrolment by 2015. The NER for girls (97.5) remains higher than for boys (94.3%). Both Repetition Rate (13%) and Dropout Rate (11%) continue to decline (from a 2008 baseline of 15.3% and 14.7% respectively) and targets set for 2012 at 10% and 8% respectively are likely to be met.

The number of students in secondary schools continues to increase as a result of the 9YBE, with a total of 486,437 currently enrolled against a baseline figure of 288,036 in 2008. Girls make up 52% of students in Secondary Education overall and 49% of those students enrolled in science combinations at the upper secondary level, towards achieving gender parity in this key area. The number of vocational training centres (VTCs) has increased from 61(2010) to 98(2011) facilitating a 50% increase in the number of students, with a current enrolment of 11,315, 39% of whom are female.

Challenges

Despite these good achievements, a number of challenges have been identified in this sector. They include:

The TVET Policy and the expansion strategy should be evidence-based (e.g. based on more analysis on what are the key skills that would most promote sustainable and equitable economic growth) and take into account implementation capacity both in terms of human and financial resources. Government action to facilitate and promote the provision of quality TVET by private TVET institutions and enterprises should be an important aspect of the expansion strategy.

Following challenges have been identified for TVET. They include: increasing the number of graduates with relevant skills for the labour market; quality of teaching on occupational competence; limited and inequitable access to TVET provision; insufficient knowledge of private providers, and absence of quality assurance/measurement mechanism for private providers; lack of up-to-date curricula and lack of serious testing of practical skills.

For a good monitoring and dissemination system, there is a need of collaboration with the NISR especially to ensure equal access for all data users as well as achieving consensus on the quality and accuracy of official education statistics. In addition, there is a lack of data broken down for categories of vulnerable children including children with special needs, children from the poorest families and others. The challenge of analyzing retention and learning achievements from a socio-economic and geographic perspective to identify which children are dropping out, at risk of dropout and/or not learning and why has also been identified as necessary to support future planning to promote ‘education for all’.

To ensure that the CPAF indicator adequately tracks progress in the responsiveness of the education and training system to the labor market, there is a need for (1) Reconsideration of the methodology used; and (2) institutionalization of periodic data collection and reporting on this indicator by WDA.

There is a strong view within the Education Sector Working Group of the need to include an indicator that captures improvements in learning achievement, and to ensure that this indicator and its target is tracked and reported on as part of the CPAF/EDPRS indicator monitoring process. The preliminary results of the assessment revealed that the majority of P3 students meet (55%) or exceed (8%) curricular expectations in reading while a majority does not meet curricular expectations in numeracy.

2.I.3. Health

In line with the operationalization of the EDPRS, the Health Sector Strategic plan II (HSSP-II) has been developed and strategies were provided through key international policies and goals, including the MDGs, Africa Health Strategy, the Paris declaration, Accra Accord and Abuja declaration.¹²

The EDPRS objectives in the health sector are to maximize preventive health measures and build capacities to have high quality and accessible health care services to entire population.

¹² Ministry of health. Economic development and poverty reduction strategy (EDPRS). Health sector assessment report. November 2011

Impressive results were achieved in EDPRS I especially due to strong political will and commitment, the improved access to health services, community based programs, the introduction of performance based approaches, community based health insurance and important investment in the human resource workforce development.

Over the course of the EDPRS I, the Total Fertility Rate improved from 5.5 (DHS 07-08) to 4.6 children/women aged 15-49 (DHS 2010 Preliminary results). This coincided with the use of modern contraceptive methods increasing from 27% (DHS 07-08) to 45% (DHS 2010). For the same period the proportion of children fully immunized increased from 80% (DHS 07-08) to 90% (DHS 2010). Assisted deliveries in health facilities increased from 45% (DHS 07-08) to 69% (DHS 2010).

The utilization rate of mosquito nets by pregnant women improved from 60% (DHS 07-08) to 72% (DHS 2010). The infant mortality rate (deaths of children <12 months/1000 live births) decreased from 86 (2005), 62 (DHS 07-08) to 50 (DHS 2010) and the same applies to the under-five mortality (deaths of children < 59 months/1000 live births) which decreased from 103 (DHS 07-08) to 76 (DHS 2010). In terms of malnutrition slight improvement has been achieved: stunting decreased from 51 (DHS 07-08) to 44 (DHS 2010), Wasting from 5 (DHS 07-08) to 3 % (DHS 2010) and underweight from 18 (DHS 07-08) to 11 (DHS 2010). As the stunting is a socioeconomic development indicator of a community, this is an indirect sign of the degree of poverty. Nonetheless, the decrease in the underweight can be allocated to a better geographical and financial access to healthcare services.

Challenges

As indicated, an important investment has been done in health care human resource development. However, a lot is still to be done to get sufficient health staff with required human and technical skills and distribute the health providers in more remote areas. There also need of strengthening research and evidence based planning, policy making and medical practice but also increase the participation of private sector in health sector. This will not only increase the access to health care but also boost economic growth through private investment in the health sector.

2.I.4. Eradication of extreme Poverty

Rwanda has had an impressive record in translating its recent growth into poverty reduction across the country over the past five years. Compared to the period 2005/06; the reduction in poverty at the national level is 12 percentage points in 2010/11. The contrasts with the limited poverty reduction experienced over the period 2000/01 to 2005/06 of only 2 percentage points.

At the national level, consumption poverty fell from 58.9% in 2000/01 to 56.7% in 2005/06 and again to 44.9% in 2010/11. Extreme poverty shows similar patterns as at a national level it fell from 40% in 2000/01 to 35.8% in 2005/06 and to 24.1% in 2010/11. The following Table (2) provides counts of extreme poverty trends for the period 2000-2011.

Table 2: counts of extreme poverty trends in percentage (%) for the period 2000-2011

Province	2000/01	2005/06	2010/11
Kigali City	14.5	12.9	7.8
Southern Province	44.7	44.9	31.1
Western Province	40.4	37.7	27.4
Northern Province	46.5	39.1	23.5
Eastern Province	39.4	29.9	20.8
Urban		16.0	10.4
Rural		39.5	26.4
Total	40.0	35.8	24.1

Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda, 2012

As already indicated (above), since 2008, more than 85% of the EDPRS targets have been met, exceeded or are highly on track to be achieved, while the implementation rate of policy actions has been 96% (485 out of 504 policy actions are fully implemented). The high implementation rate has led to impressive results in all three flagship programmes. The Following Table (3) gives some EDPRS indicators with reference to the situation of 2006.

Challenges

According to the assessment of the implementation of EDPRS, following challenges have been identified.

Some sectors still lack exhaustive and well-articulated strategies – including financing and capacity mobilization strategies, while they have been crucial in guiding implementation – ensuring coordination and alignment of stakeholders. For example, the transport sector needs a single transport sector strategy including a reporting system and sector monitoring strategy. In the same vein, in the area of private sector development, the lack of an overarching sector strategy has hindered coordination efforts for policy and strategy formulation and implementation as well as priority setting.

In addition, some structures are still not functioning as expected because roles and responsibilities are not well defined in some areas and more reforms are needed, there is insufficient coordination and communication across sectors as well as between central and local government entities , insufficient involvement of private sector and cooperatives (NGOs/CSOs) in some areas has affected the quality of policy dialogue especially at the District level, districts and sectors have pointed out the need for an integrated M&E system that links the different sub-systems, important projects are sometimes delayed due to poor procurement planning and insufficient capacity of private contractors, quality of service delivery in both public and private sectors has also been noted as one of the key areas for improvement.

Also, there is room for improvement in regard to mainstreaming cross cutting issues such as disability, disaster management and risk reduction, regional integration and climate change. While Sectors and Districts acknowledged progress in integrating cross cutting issues of gender, HIV/AIDS and environment, they also highlighted the need for more tools and

guidance on effectively mainstreaming cross cutting issues into their plans, budgets and M&E. The development and collection of specific disaggregated indicators was of particular concern and interest moving forward.

Table 3: Key EDPRS indicators

Priority area	Indicator	Baseline (2006)	Target (2012/13)	Actual (2010/11)
Growth and poverty reduction	Real GDP growth (% annual)	6.5	8.1	8.2 (2008-2011)
	National investment (% of GDP)	16.3	24.4	21.9
	Share of population living in poverty (%)	57	46	44.9
	Share of population living in extreme poverty (%)	37	24	24.1
Widen and strengthen the Financial Sector	Private Sector credit (% of GDP)	10	15	13.9
	Financial depth (broad money/GDP)	20	22.5	20.4
Develop skills	Pupil/teacher ratio in primary schools	70:1	47:1	58:1
	Gross secondary school enrolment	10	30	31.5
Raise agricultural productivity and ensure food security	Percentage of agricultural land protected against soil erosion	40	100	87.3
	Area under irrigation (hectares)	15,000	24,000	17,363
	Use of mineral fertiliser (kgs/ha)	11	40	30
Improve environmental management	Forestry coverage (%)	20	23.5	22.1
Build infrastructure	Percentage of households with access to electricity (% of households) (Number of connections)	4 (70,000)	16 (200,000)	10.8 (215,000)
	Electricity generation (off/on grid, MW)	45	130	97.4
	Classified road network in good condition (%)	11	31	59.9
	ICT composite network coverage (%)	75	100	90
Improve health status and slow down population growth	Infant mortality (deaths per 1,000 live births)	86	70	50
	Maternal mortality (deaths per 100,000 live births)	750	600	487
	Population covered by health insurance schemes (%)	70	95	89
	Women aged 15-45 using modern contraceptive techniques (%)	10	70	45
	Total Fertility Rate (children per woman)	6.1	4.5	4.6
Increase access to safe drinking water and sanitation	Access to safe drinking water (% of population)	64	86	74
Strengthen governance, security and the rule of law	Share of population expressing satisfaction/confidence in decentralised governance (%)	65	70	74.2

Source: MINECOFIN, 2011

4.7 . Key Determinants of observed Progress

Eighteen years ago, Rwanda was considered a dead country, deeply destroyed, whose future was simply unclear following the 1994 genocide against Tutsi. Today, the country has achieved tremendous progress both politically and economically. The fundamental causes of this decade of quick development are to be attributed mostly to the good leadership (Kigabo, 2010) , rich and positive ideology as well as strong political commitment aimed to serve the general interest, and committed to find durable solutions to community problems. The current leadership in Rwanda has been working to reestablish social harmony and promote sustainable economic development. It created structures, mechanisms, and practices that guarantee participation of all and transparency in public affairs management. In addition, reforms are enacted following mass consultative meetings to efficiently react to community problems¹³.

In addition to the above, the EDPRS self-assessment has also revealed the following enabling factors to achieving EDPRS goals and hence development objectives in various areas in the last few years (MINECOFIN, 2011: 6-7):

The participation of population, has allowed fast-tracking implementation and has proven cost effective: examples include fast-tracking 9YBE, mobilization of the population for land consolidation and use of fertilizers, government programs of health mutuelles (medical insurance), using bed nets, universal vaccination, etc.

Home-grown initiatives turned into success stories in strengthening delivery. These include: Umuganda (community work), Gacaca (traditional courts), Abunzi (mediators), Imihigo (performance contracts), Inteko z'Abaturage (citizen forums), Ubudehe (socio-economic classification to assist vulnerable groups), VUP (Vision 2020 Umurenge Program), Girinka (one cow per poor family), etc.

The ownership of the EDPRS by all stakeholders and alignment of all resources to the framework of the EDPRS in the respect of the aid policy principles have allowed to make the EDPRS a useful guiding strategy used by all and facilitating achievements of targets.

Adequate institutional/ legal framework for implementation – and flexibility to change or adapt has proven effective (e.g. RDB, REB, EWSA, etc). The experience shows that where the institutional framework was inadequate or reforms were delayed during the implementation period, progress has been less visible than in the sectors where the right institutional set-up existed from the very beginning of the EDPRS process.

Improved service delivery with support of ICT solutions. With the strong focus of the country on transforming into a middle income country in Vision 2020 with ICT at the forefront, some of the successes in service delivery and investment climate reforms have centered around ICT solutions. These include online registration of businesses, online filing of tax claims, a rapidly

¹³ For details, see Kigabo (2010) in Commission on growth and development working papers.

evolving financial sector which embracing new and innovative IT products as well as an electronic immigration service, driving license application to name but a few. These offer important opportunities for integrating other sectors such as agriculture and for bridging the urban-rural divide.

Performance contracts (Imihigo) at district level are a very useful planning tool, which improves **performance** and which assists Districts to ensure that their activities are addressing the key priorities.

5. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

5.1. Governance Framework

The governance is one of the three flagship of EDPRS developed after PRSP I. The focus is to maintain , among others, peace and security which, in turn, sustain the development process. The 2003 new constitution outlawed all forms of discrimination, including ethnic and gender based discrimination. It laid a strong foundation to lead the country towards rule of law, respect for human rights and democracy. After the adoption of the new Constitution, Rwanda embarked on multiparty democracy; presidential and legislative elections were held in August and September 2003, and local elections followed in 2006 (MINECOFIN, 2011)

The decentralization programme (phase I) that was underway offered great potential to bring government closer to the grassroots, strengthen local governments and improve service delivery. (MINECOFIN, 2011). Through this process of decentralization of power to the lowest government level, Rwanda has embarked on the promotion of good governance. Expected advantages of this policy is ‘to ensure equitable political, economic, and social development throughout the country, and to be a cornerstone of the fight against poverty by increasing people’s participation in the planning and management of the development process’(Government of Rwanda, 2012)14. The participation and accountability of local governments are enforced by different tools such as the performance-based contracting – locally known as Imihigo. Rwanda has also established the Office of Ombudsman in 2003 as an independent public institution aimed to enforce good governance in both Public and Private institutions. All these create, among others, a conducive environment for external and internal investments, leading to sustainable development.

5.2. Integrated Planning and Decision Making

In the last two decades, consistent with MINECOFIN (2008)¹⁵, a number of important planning instruments have been developed: the Vision 2020; the Long Term Investment Framework; the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy; sector strategic plans, District development plans; the Medium Term Expenditure Framework; and the Annual Actions Plans and District Performance Contracts. One of the reasons for these planning tools is to integrate the planning, budgeting, and spending by government line entities. At District level, performance contracts (Imihigo) are a very useful planning tool that allows the Districts to ensure that planned activities are addressing the key priorities. These performance contracts

14 Drawn from the official website of the government of Rwanda :[Internet]. Accessed 20th May 2012.

15 MINECOFIN (2008). National Planning, budgeting and MTEF guidelines. Ministry of Finances and Economic Planning, Kigali, Rwanda

have facilitated to some extent the progress and to ensure focus on delivery of results (MINECOFIN 2011).

5.3. New Institutions towards Sustainable Development

Rwanda has developed different new institutions to support development strategies since Rio+20. These include frameworks such as the Vision 2020, EDPRS and Sector-Wide Approach (SWAP) aimed to improve coordination and delivery in various sectors. According to MINECOFIN (2011:19:18), ‘ these frameworks are further broken down into core activities, annual work and action plans, including targets and outputs. Most of these are budgeted on an annual basis and accompanied by implementation plans. Some sectors express interest in developing a SWAp seeing it as a way to move the sector coordination forward’. Apart from the SWAP, there other institutions in the form of policies, retreats such as Akagera retreat 2007, regulations, and structures that are being developed by different line ministries to meet development goals but also in an integrated manner. For instance the Integrated development programme 2008-2012 which normally coordinates all central sectors and local governments in setting up strategies and priorities in line with Imihigo and action plans of local government.

Among other institutions, policies and laws that were initiated to sustain the on-going development process include the following: Organic land Law (determining the use and management of land in Rwanda), national land policy, organic law on environment, human settlement policy (which emphasizes village settlement for better land management, urban housing development policy, and establishment of Rwanda Natural Resources Authority.

Other initiatives in the same domain include waste management in urban areas especially Kigali City, support for use of new sources of energy in order to reduce high dependency on biomass (bank loan for solar energy, biogas, household plant, solar plant, small hydropower, development of public private partnerships in the domain of energy, climate change observatory in place since 2011. In addition to these policies, there quite a good number of rural development projects aimed at reducing poverty in rural areas.

In terms of performance evaluation, Rwanda has initiated an innovative system of performance evaluation known locally as “Imihigo”. This systems allows, among others, citizen’s ownership with regard to public choices as well as participation of various stakeholders in the process of policy formulation, its implementation and evaluation. This system is considered at different scale of actions from individuals to government line units.

6. CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of this report is to give the current status of Rwanda in terms of environment and sustainable development to feed into the discussions to take place during the multi-stakeholder consultative meeting. The assessment approach opted in the context of this study has allowed the researcher to identify a number of achievements and challenges from different sectors (Environment and natural resources management, Agricultural productivity and livestock, Transport and Energy, Trade and Regional Integration, and Human Development and Social Sectors) to inform on areas that need more attention in the next wave of environment and sustainable development in Rwanda.

It is clear from the review that Rwanda has promoted integrated planning and decision making process through different planning and development approaches. The EDPRS is the leading planning tools opted after the PRSPs since 2008 under the auspices of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning. Other tools that are based on the EDPRS include the sector strategic plan (with a 5 years planning horizon), District Development Plan, Long Term Investment Framework (LTIF), and Medium Term Expenditure Framework.

Some of the areas that need more attention by the policy, as documented in individual EDPRs Sector-Self assessment and other national reports, is the need to improve the role of the private sector. The Private Sector is assumed to play major role along the value chain especially in transforming the agriculture sector. Capacity building (both skilled human resources and institutional arrangement) to meet the demands of each sector in terms of activity implementation was also highlighted as a restraining factor towards sustainable development. More specifically, the role of Monitoring and Evaluation is found key in terms of capacity building to inform processors on their achievements and constraints. Similarly, some sectors are yet to develop their database to serve as benchmarks for their evaluation. The Role of the National Institute of Statistics in this area is highly needed and recommended.

Some of the activities connected to environment and sustainable development require long term investments, which in turn, depend to some extent on financial commitments made by donors. It has been observed that some of donors take longer to materialize their commitments and hence this affects the program implementation.

Another important observation of this report is that different institutions (in the broad sense of structures, policies, regulations) have been (are being) established in different sectors. Although complementary towards sustainable development, the challenge remains on how and the extent to which these are being integrated by local governments (District and Sectors) in their respective District Development Plans and Imihigo – Performance Contracts. Therefore, there is need to establish a framework that easy the coordination of different initiatives around green economy and sustainable development.

In all, apart from the above areas highlighted for more consideration, findings from this report show that Rwanda has made tremendous efforts towards environment and sustainable development. Thus, results of this report form a basis for future perspectives of Rwanda in terms of a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and the institutional framework for sustainable development.

ANNEX

List of contributors to the National Report

Institution	Targeted person
Ministry of Natural Resources,	PS and the DG planning
Ministry of Finance,	DG planning
Ministry of Commerce,	DG planning
Ministry of Agriculture,	DG planning
Ministry of Health (MoH),	DG planning
MINALOC	DG planning
Ministry of Education (MINEDUC)	DG Research and Technology
National University of Rwanda	Dr. Twarabamenye, CEESD Director CGIS
Office of the Prime Minister (PRIMATURE) (for Gender issues),	?
Ministry of Infrastructure (MININFRA).	DG planning
Ministry of Gender	DG planning
Ministry of Youth	DG planning
REMA	DG Research and planning Others
Natural Resources Management Authority	DG planning
UNDP	See Shingiro
RDB	
RAB	DG/ Representatives
NAEB	DG/ Representatives
UNECA	Rogers
UNIDO	
BNR	Chief Economist
DFID	

USAID	
EU	
World Bank	
IPAR	Executive Director or representative
PSF	Representative
DUCTH EMBASY	
NISR	
IMBARAGA	Executive Secretary