



# RWANDA: STATE OF BIODIVERSITY

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# CONTENT

- ❖ STATUS OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN RWANDA: OPPORTUNITIES , THREATS & CHALLENGES
- ❖ PREVIOUS RWANDA NBSAP: ITS OUTCOMES& LESSONS LEARNT
- ❖ RWANDA NBSAP REVISION: PLANS, BENEFITS&CONSTRAINTS
- ❖ ACHIEVEMENTS, PROJECTS AND SUCCESS STORIES TO SHARE

# Rwanda Administrative Map



# STATUS OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN

## RWANDA

On its small size: **26,338 km<sup>2</sup>**, Rwanda hosts a remarkable variety of ecosystems ranging from the **Albertine Rift** in the West to the **savannah-lakes-swamps systems of the Akagera** region in the East

➤ With such varied habitats, Rwanda shelters:

- So far **2,150 known plant species**
- **151 mammals species**, of which 11 are currently threatened including *Gorilla gorilla berengei* (mountain gorillas – VNP)
- **87 amphibians and reptiles species**
- **670 birds' species** presently recorded, Four of which are threatened with extinction: *Balaeniceps rex* (Shoebill-Akagera), *Bradypterus graueri* (Grauer's rush warbler-VNP, Rugezi&Nyungwe), *Apalis argentea* (Kungwe apalis – Nyungwe), *Phodilus Prigoginei* (African or Congo bowl – Lake Kivu shores)

# MOUNTAIN GORILLAS - VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK



# BIRDS ON LAKE IHEMA SHORES, AKAGERA NATIONAL PARKS

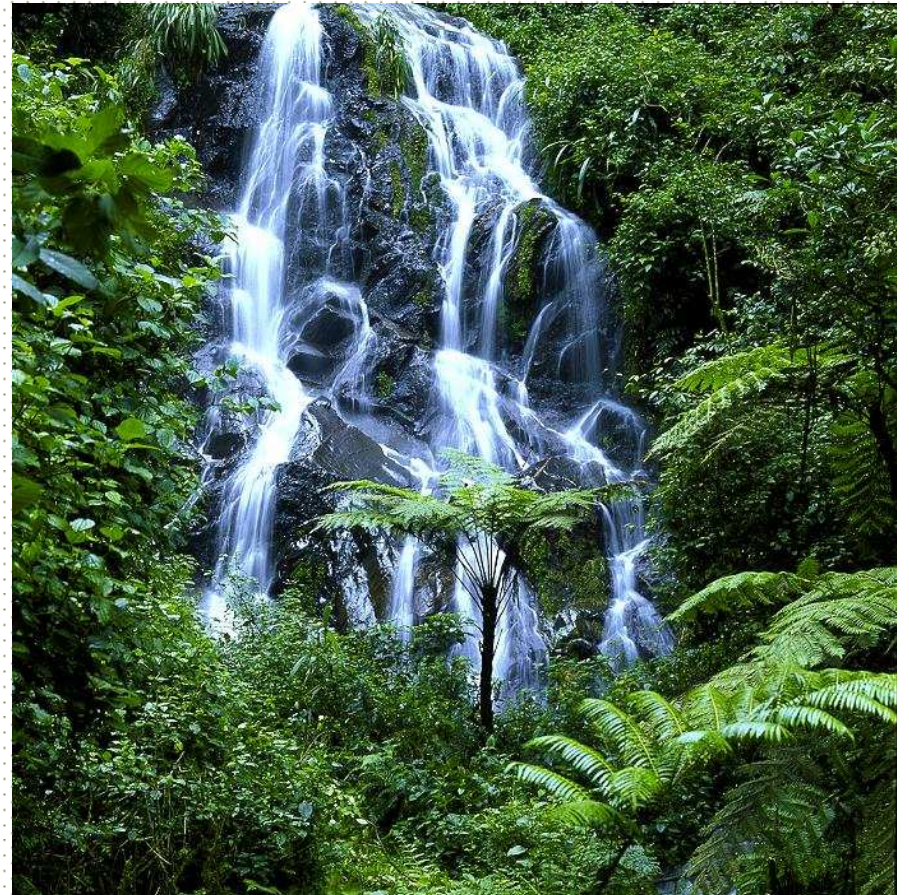


# STATUS OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN RWANDA

## Biodiversity conservation in Rwanda:

- ***In-situ* Conservation**, well established network of PA comprising:
  - **3 transboundary national parks:** Akagera, Nyungwe & Volcanoes national parks
  - **Forests reserves:** Gishwati, Iwawa island & Mukura forests
  - **Forests of cultural importance:** Buhanga forest
  - **Wetlands:** Rugezi marshland (of global importance); Kamiranzovu, Akagera marshlands and Rweru-Mugesera complex (the latter three are to be protected)
  
- ***Ex-situ* Conservation** comprises Herbaria (IRST, KRC & KCTC), Arboretum and seed bank.

# NYUNGWE NATIONAL PARK





# RUGEZI PROTECTED MARSHLAND



# LAKES SYSTEM IN AKAGERA NATIONAL PARK



# OPPORTUNITIES, THREATS AND CHALLENGES TO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN RWANDA

## Opportunities provided by Biodiversity in Rwanda

- Economic and livelihood support
- Tourism opportunities
- Research and medicinal purposes

## Biodiversity threats in Rwanda

- **Major causes:** *increasing human population density, land scarcity, crucial poverty*
- **Threats:** *habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation; loss of traditional crops and livestock variety; overexploitation of resources; mining non regulated practices; introduction of alien and invasive species; loss of genetic resources, insecurity in the great lakes region...*

# OPPORTUNITIES, THREATS AND CHALLENGES TO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN RWANDA

## Challenges to Biodiversity conservation in Rwanda

- Lack of core biodiversity assessment studies
- Need of efficient Family planning measures
- Existing Policy and law breaches and/or gaps
- Scarcity/lack of income generation incentives in PAS vicinity
- Insufficient technical expertise in biodiversity management

## PREVIOUS RWANDA NBSAP : OUTCOMES & LESSONS LEARNT

- First generation of Rwanda NBSAP, after the genocide, was conceived in 2003
- This NBSAP was built on **FIVE** main **OUTCOMES**:
  - *Improved conservation of protected areas and wetlands*
  - *Sustainable use of the biodiversity of natural ecosystems and agro systems*
  - *Rational use of biotechnology*
  - *Development and strengthening of policy, institutional, legal and human resource frameworks*
  - *Equitable sharing of benefits derived from the use of biological resources*

## PREVIOUS RWANDA NBSAP : OUTCOMES & LESSONS LEARNT, CONT.

- Previous NBSAP methodology:
  - Outcomes were set according to the then acknowledged threats to biodiversity conservation and organized into 12 objectives, with specific strategies and planned activities.
  - Implementation plan for NBSAP was conceived per sector/institution and based on the mandates of the latter and the required expertise to achieve the outcomes.
- Few lessons were learnt from this NBSAP:
  - Most of the planned activities were **too ambitious** and could not be met in the predesigned timeframe
  - Assessment of the NBSAP implementation plan showed that achievements were mostly limited to research and that in most cases **mobilizing funds** for these research recommendations impeded the predefined outcomes

# RWANDA NBSAP REVISION: PLANS, BENEFITS & CONSTRAINTS

- NBSAP Revision plan:
  - to base on unachieved previous NBSAP targets, as assessed in the 4<sup>th</sup> national report
  - to use cross-sectoral approach based on institutional synergies
  - To use adaptive and cyclical process for biodiversity planning
  - Priorities and targets to be set in line with existing strategic papers: VISION2020, EDPRS, DDPs...
- NBSAP Revision benefits:
  - SMART targets met through short, medium and long termed activities, as the timeframe is extended to 2020
  - New NBSAP to be revised as a tool that will mainstream biodiversity in the new EDPRS



# RWANDA NBSAP REVISION: PLANS, BENEFITS & CONSTRAINTS

- NBSAP Revision constraints:
  - Access to funds
  - Not enough technical expertise on biodiversity conservation
  - Mainstreaming biodiversity issues in other relevant sectors



# ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MAINSTREAMED IN SCHOOLS: ENVIRONMENTAL CLUBS AND GREENING SCHOOLS ACTIVITIES



# COMMUNITY WORK FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION:UMUGANDA



# LANDSCAPE RESTORATION



## ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- Preparation of Biodiversity law
- Preparation of National Biodiversity Policy
- Preparation of law establishing FONERWA (Rwanda Environment Fund)
- Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative
- Preparation of Rwanda Biodiversity Atlas Biodiversity Information system
- Greening Schools Guidelines – Pilot projects
- Studies and awareness on mechanisms of PES

# LAKE KIVU SHORES PROTECTION



# NYABARONGO RIVER CATCHMENT



# YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN ENVIRONMENT: TUBING FOR TREE NURSERIES, BASKETS MADE FROM BANA FIBERS



# CANOPY WALK IN NYUNGWE NATIONAL PARK





# Rugezi falls - increase water debit - hydropower production increase





ACHIEVEMENTS, PROJECTS AND SUCCESS STORIES TO SHARE, Cont.

**SUCCESS STORIES TO SHARE**

**YES**, Rwanda is happy to share the following:

- Ban of plastic bags and promotion of green packages
- Involvement of communities in monitoring and maintenance of rehabilitated ecosystems.
- National Inventory of wetlands:38 marshlands fully protected by the law.
- Youth mobilization for green businesses



**Lengthening this list is our GOAL!!!**



Well managed, I am the key to  
your wealth!

