

The Challenges of Climate Change Adaptation and the Potential of Sustainable Energies in the East African Community

The National Adaptation Strategies and
the EAC Framework – the Rwandan
Perspective

Vision 2020

- ***Adopted in 2000, revised in 2012 and informed by challenges and lessons from*** post-genocide reconstruction, as well as from implementation of EDPRS I, Vision 2020 seeks to
- Transform Rwanda into a knowledge-based, middle income country with per capita GDP of 1240 USD by 2020. The national aspirations in the Vision 2020 that have direct implications for

Environmental management

- Transforming from an agrarian economy into a knowledge-based economy. This would imply alleviation of the pressure on arable land; and
- Reducing the proportion of people earning their livelihoods from agriculture from 80% in 2000 to 50% by 2020

The Seven Year Government Plan (2011-2017)

- The sixth programme of this Government Plan targets sustainable management of environment and natural resources. As regards environment the focus will be on:
- Increasing the climate resilience capacity of the country and engaging in green growth

Continued

- Raising awareness on climate change issues,
- Developing the strategic plan for rehabilitation of critical ecosystems and watersheds
- Mainstreaming environment and Climate Change in all sectors

The Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRSII)

- The EDPRS has important implications for the environmental agenda from three perspectives:
- Economic transformation although fostering structural shift towards less contribution of agriculture to GDP (from 32% to 25% in 2020) and bigger implication of industry and services, implies increased pressure on natural resources- forests; water for energy,

Continued

- recreation, irrigation, construction...; soils, minerals, biodiversity,...; with likelihood of
- increased waste generation. From the environment perspective, sufficient mechanisms
- for sustainable utilization of natural resources and pollution control through efficient productive measures and better waste management, have to be put in place;

Continued

- Environment and climate change linkages with EDPRS could also be created through Opportunities for investment in renewable energy that can be foundation for economic transformation and low carbon growth, green private sector investment, improved food Security and reduced vulnerability to climate change;

Continued

- Knowledge generation and application, including information and communication
 - Technologies (ICT) will provide opportunities for effective environmental
 - Communication and awareness raising; as well as addressing environmental challenges
- Like e-waste management and resource use efficiency (e.g. solar energy).

NAPA

- The Government of Rwanda established the National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA)
 - Gender issues
 - Agriculture & Food Security
 - Integrated Water Resources Management
 - Land use and master plan
 - National Biogas Domestic Programme

Major challenges and Lessons learnt

- Limited implementation of existing policies, laws and strategies and other support tools including guidelines which undermines effectiveness of environment and climate change mainstreaming
- Limited ownership of environmental sustainability and climate change issues particularly in productive sectors reduces national ability to adopt green economy
- Climate change impacts (Floods, landslides and droughts) pose economic losses

Major challenges and Lessons learnt

- contributes to the spread of water borne diseases and other hygiene related illnesses hence increasing cost for ensuring public health
- Rwanda's rapid economic and sustainable growth is undermined by limited productivity of ecosystems and persistent vulnerability

Major challenges and Lessons learnt

- Inadequate and unreliable financing for environment and climate change
- Limitations in technical and human capacity in environmental management and climate change in general and particularly in productive sectors which rely on environment and natural resources
- Insufficient research, monitoring and evaluation system to capture comprehensive environment and climate change sector-specific as well as cross sector data and information

suggestions

- NGOs & CSOs should be supported financially by the member states and EAC to participate in Climate Change meetings (COPs)
- NGOs & CSOs should be Supported to document the lessons and best practices
- KAS and EAC should have special fund to support NGOs & CSOs to participate in COPs
- EAC should have a PRE-COP conference of member states including NGOs & CSOs to facilitate them have a common understanding

Thank you for your attention

BY : JOHNSON NKUSI

RWANDA ENVIRONMENTAL NGOs FORUM
(RENGOF)

E-mail:umunkurwc@yahoo.com

fenvironment@yahoo.com

Telephone:+250 78830 3390/+250 73830 3390/
+250 78844 9738