



RWANDA ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Your Quarterly Newsletter

April - June 2022



Commonwealth Leaders commit to keeping 1.5 Climate goal alive

We are pleased to share with you REMA quarterly newsletter which features key stories and photos of our work these past months. We hope you will find it interesting and informative.

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Green Amayaga Project steps up to improve communities' livelihoods in Rwanda's Amayaga Region



VIP visit for Africa's clean cold Centre shows how we can keep alive the goal of 1.5 degree Celsius



REMA awards outstanding green innovations and investments at the World Environment Day

Commonwealth Leaders commit to keeping 1.5 Climate goal alive



Participants of the Climate Change event in a group photo after the concluding the high-level event

On the sidelines of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Kigali, leaders from across the Commonwealth have committed to working together to address climate change and keep alive the goal of limiting average global temperature rises below 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The commitment was made at an event hosted by the Government of Rwanda and the Government of the United Kingdom, together with the COP26 Presidency.

The event brought together a range of leaders from across the Commonwealth, the United Nations, civil society, private sector, and young people to take stock of progress on the Glasgow Climate Pact, innovative climate finance and how to build momentum for COP27.

“There is a lot Commonwealth Member States can do together, to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement. Many Commonwealth members, particularly developing states, are especially vulnerable to a warming world. The larger economies are major emitters, and have much work ahead to reduce emissions. This

puts the Commonwealth in a unique position to work together and deliver a common future that is clean, green and climate resilient,” said Rwanda’s Prime Minister, Dr Edouard Ngirente.

Speaking on the need to realise the Glasgow Climate Pact, COP26 President Alok Sharma said, “It is time to honour the promises we made in Glasgow and turn commitments into action. It is time to show the world that the confidence that COP26 inspired in the multilateral system was not misplaced, and it is time to make sure that we arrive in Egypt at COP27 November able to say that although the world has changed, our resolve to tackle climate change has not.”

The Rt. Hon. Sharma also announced the UK will double its funding for the NDC Partnership to £10m, which will support developing countries to implement their climate plans known as Nationally Determined Contributions.

During the event, Rwanda introduced the Kigali Principles on Carbon Finance, which aim to promote coordination, transparency, and the fair trading of

high quality carbon credits with social co-benefits across Commonwealth countries. The goal is to unlock much-needed climate finance to further drive ambition and capital for green projects across the Commonwealth and around the world.

Panellists and speakers also reflected on the Glasgow Climate Pact goal to double adaptation finance by 2025, and the opportunities and challenges in developing quality adaptation proposals at scale for enhanced access to climate finance, and how this can be achieved in partnership with vulnerable countries to deliver progress by COP27.

Delivering closing remarks, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Amina J. Mohammed said, “In the Commonwealth, we have the potential to lead the way. This is a huge opportunity for a diverse community of countries spanning many regions in the world, languages, religions, and cultures. We do need to see local solutions, the Kigali Principles [on Carbon Finance] are important. We need concrete steps to address loss and damage.”

VIP visit for Africa's clean cold Centre shows how we can keep alive the goal of 1.5 degree Celsius



COP26 President Rt. Hon. Alok Sharma visited the Africa Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Cooling and Cold Chain (ACES)

COP26 President, the Rt. Hon. Alok Sharma MP, visited the Africa Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Cooling and Cold-chain (ACES) during his attendance at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Rwanda.

Currently 7% of the world's emissions come from cooling - from food and vaccine cold-chains to air conditioning to high-tech innovation - and demand for cooling will only grow as global temperatures increase.

ACES is a first-of-kind Centre dedicated to generating ideas, technology and capacity building to support sustainable cooling that doesn't cause a spike in energy demand or exacerbate climate change further.

The COP President said, "ACES is a demonstration of how we can work together, to help tackle rising emissions and keep alive the goal of limiting average global temperature rises to 1.5°C.

"Cooling and refrigeration are the fastest-growing source of greenhouse gas emissions in the world, especially in developing

countries. But this challenge gives us the opportunity to develop innovative, energy efficient technologies of the future.

"Spearheaded by UK experts and £16 million of DEFRA funding, ACES is dedicated to developing innovative cooling technologies and providing training to apply those technologies."

Director General of Environment and Climate Change, Beatrice Cyiza who represented Hon. Minister of Environment Dr Jeanne D'Arc Mujamariya during the visit and said: "Making cold-chains part of the critical infrastructure is key to tackling post-harvest food losses; accelerating economic growth and meeting our vision 2050 as well as international commitments (i.e: Kigali Amendment to Montreal Protocol and the Paris Climate Agreement).

The Centre of excellence offers a compelling opportunity for the first time to bring together all key stakeholders across the spectrum: from the largest multinational companies and leading investors to SMEs and local start-ups, from accomplished academics to budding students, from major

supermarkets and agribusinesses to small-shareholder farmers and cooperatives, and political leaders from the international stage to the village-level, and beyond".

Through a "hub and spoke" model, the Centre is being developed by the Governments of Rwanda and the United Kingdom (UK), University of Rwanda, United Nations Environment Programme and the UK's Centre for Sustainable Cooling leading a consortium of UK universities.

Alongside the UK commitment, the Government of Rwanda is providing the five-hectare campus and cash for renovating existing buildings, backed by industry support to develop new bespoke facilities on-site.

ACES is the merger of key social and environmental targets. As project co-leader and ACES co-Director Professor Toby Peters from the University of Birmingham explains: "By 2050, global food demand is set to grow by between 59% and 98%. In sub-Saharan Africa, almost 50% of fruits and vegetables are lost mainly due to improper cold chain management.

Your Quarterly Newsletter

“Given the economic, environmental and social impact, food saved and the food system is as important as food produced. The challenge is how to create local and global temperature controlled ‘field to fork’ from hundreds of millions of subsistence and small-scale farmers whose livelihoods are often dependent on only 1-2 hectares or less, whilst using renewable energy and climate friendly technologies.”

A key focus of the Centre is on clean cold-chains. Globally, 536 million tonnes (12% of total food production) are lost due to lack of cold-chain, enough to feed around 1 billion people. In Rwanda, as an example, food loss equates to 21% of its total land use, 16% of GHG emissions, and 12% loss to its annual Gross Domestic Product. Similarly, 25% of vaccines are wasted globally due to failures within cold-chains; more than 1.5 million people globally die from vaccine-preventable diseases each year.

The campus will include a state-of-the-art refrigeration training centre; a technology demo hall and innovation centre and quality control labs. UK funding is also supporting the development of outreach SPOKES across Africa, the first of which is being developed in Kenya.

During his visit, the COP President joined workshops with Local farmer co-operatives acting as test-beds with ACES experts and industry partners to develop new, fit-for-purpose, self-sustaining, multi-service cold-chains that can be applied and operated locally; and joined UK clinical research and Covid vaccine trial teams from University Hospital Birmingham who are using ACES to work with Rwanda’s counterparts to build on the successes of their COVID-19 vaccine programmes to jointly develop better and sustainable vaccine protection to a variety of infectious pathogens.

This includes investment in people and preparedness for further breakthroughs in vaccine technology that will require a robust cold-chain in order to protect everyone who needs them.

ACES Founder Industry Partner (FIP) Danfoss was also present for the visit. FIPs are making multi-year commitments, with Danfoss already providing sustainable refrigeration technology for a novel demonstrator “community cooling hub”, a training cold store and extensive training material for refrigeration installers. The company also used the event to open its first East Africa regional office on the campus.

Ziad Al Bawaliz, regional President for Turkey, Middle East, and Africa at Danfoss: comments: “At Danfoss, we are committed to supporting the expansion of a sustainable cold chain, to decarbonise from farm to fork with energy-efficient, climate-friendly technologies and training support for installers.”

Rwanda celebrates the World Environment Day with commendable achievements in Environment Protection



The Government of Rwanda and development partners have on 3rd June 2022 celebrated the World Environment Day (WED) which is celebrated annually on 5th June.

This year’s WED was celebrated under the theme “Only One Earth” and was an opportunity

to reflect on what Rwanda has achieved in Environment Protection.

“Only One Earth is a theme which says it all and doesn’t need any breaking down. If you have one thing, you really pay very much attention to it. You guard it jeal-

ously and this is what we are inviting all of us to do” said Juliet Kabera, Director General, Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA).

Rwanda has a diversified natural ecosystem including forests, savannahs, farmlands and wetlands

just to mention a few of our natural ecosystems are the basis of human prosperity and support the economy as well as livelihoods.

According to development partners, this is a milestone achieved by Rwanda during the last decade.

“We recognize all partners from International and National Non-Governmental Organizations, Private Sector, Government Institutions as well as media for their unlimited support in the big achievements made by Rwanda during the last decade in environmental protection and restoration of our planet” said Rolande Pryce, Country Manager, World Bank.

Representatives from Government institutions, private sector, local and international non-governmental institutions and media were present at the celebration event.

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Environment, Mr. Patrick Karera reminded that environment and natural resource is a cross-cutting topic, adding that development partners play a big role in sustaining communities’ livelihoods and environment protection related activities.

“To the heads of agencies within our sector and different central government institutions here pres-

ent, we thank you very much for continuing to mainstream the environment and climate change into your plans and actions” said Patrick Karera in his remarks.

The WED celebrations were preceded by a whole week of activities aimed at raising awareness on environmental sustainability, a week known as National Environment Week which started on 28th May 2022 with a National community Work across the country.

During the celebrations, development partners in the Environment sector interacted on the implementation of REMA's strategic plan for 2022-2026.

REMA awards outstanding green innovations and investments at the World Environment Day

The Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) in partnership with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) awarded youth and women with outstanding green innovation and investments during the celebration of the World Environment Day on 3rd June 2022.

The awards were provided in the framework of recognizing individuals, organizations, Civil Society Organizations and High Learning Institutions that have made remarkable efforts to ensure that effective and timely responses are provided in case of environmental challenges and climate change impact.

The environmental award is a joint initiative developed by REMA and UNDP through the Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals (PEA), a joint UNDP, Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA), and Global Environment Facility (GEF) project.

In this context, REMA organize the Environmental Awards for Youth and women's green innovations and investments as one of the events to celebrate the World Environment Day with objective to recognize and award youth and women for their efforts to implement projects and initiatives that positively impact the communities by addressing local and global environmental challenges and cli-

mate change. In total, 47 applications have been sent to REMA, and 18 projects for youth and women have been preselected for field visit to evaluate their performance.

Usually, award concept note, application form and evaluation form are designed and sent to Districts before the call for application is published.



Farming green S&S Ltd whose project is construction of biogas of 10m3, which generate cooking gas and organic manure used in plantation of fruit trees and IREBE Plastic Tiles which recycle plastic waste into tiles got 7,000,000 Rwandan Francs each.

Shukuru star shining company Ltd which manufacture reusable baby diapers and Dufatanye Organization which transform waste into traditional artcraft products which are then sell to earn money got 5,000,000 Rwandan Francs each.

Applicants then submit their projects to the districts for preselection, and district staff evaluate their proposals using the evaluation form to select three best applicants and submitted their applications to REMA for selection at National level.

From 16th to 22nd May 2022 REMA staff conducted a field visit to evaluate submitted green projects with to select the best projects with high performance in environment and climate change which were recognized during the celebration of the World Environment Day.

Green Amayaga Project steps up to improve communities' livelihoods in Rwan-



Beneficiaries in Gisagara District were provided with 113 cows to improve their livelihoods

The Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) through the Forest Landscape Restoration in Amayaga Region (Green Amayaga) Project, has on 29th June 2022 distributed 113 cows to project beneficiaries in Gisagara District to improve their livelihoods.

Livestock distribution is among many other Green Amayaga Project's activities to improve the communities' livelihood while restoring forest and landscape in Rwanda's Amayaga Region.

The distribution in Gisagara District comes shortly after other distributions in Kamonyi and Nyanza District, where around 180 households in Kamonyi District and 1139 in Nyanza District were provided with pigs and goats respectively.

Livestock is distributed to vulnerable families to help them get out of poverty.

The vice mayor in charge of Economic Development in Gisagara District, Jean Paul Habineza commended REMA and Green Amayaga Project in particular for its contribution in the implementation of the district's performance contract.

"Green Amayaga Project is a good partner for our district. It will not only help us increasing forest cover in Gisagara and Amayaga region in general, but also help our citizens get out of poverty. I recommend all of you to protect the project activities and sustain them" he told beneficiaries at the distribution event.

Beneficiaries provided with livestock assure that the livestock will generate income which will help them to not only get means to solve their basic needs but also get out of poverty.

"This cow comes at a right time. I will take care of it as much as I can and I am sure it will improve my family's livelihoods. I commend Green Amayaga's efforts to restore degraded ecosystems in our region and improve our livelihoods at the same time" said Nyirandikumana Pelagie, a resident of Muyaga cell in Mamba sector of Gisagara District.

REMA called upon residents in Amayaga region to protect the project activities for sustainability purposes, as their long-term benefits will also benefit generations to come if they are well sustained.



Beneficiaries were also reminded to take care of the cows they were provided with to play their role in helping the project achieve its objectives.

"The cows you are being provided with as well as other Green Amayaga Project activities are yours. It is in your interest to protect and preserve them so they can serve their purpose. Let's work together to sustain the project activities for our interest and future generations" said Philbert Nkurunziza, Program Manager of Ecosystem Recovery and Pollution Manage-

ment at the Rwanda Environment Management Authority.

Apart from providing beneficiaries with livestock, Green Amayaga Project also distributed improved cookstoves to 21,000 households in Kamonyi and Ruhango Districts to both improve human health and contribute to mitigating deforestation and climate change.

Launched in 2020, Green Amayaga project is a ground-breaking six-year initiative to promote biodiversity, foster ecosystem services, increase agricultural pro-

ductivity and reduce the vulnerability of people and ecosystems to the adverse effects of climate change in the Southern Province.

It is being implemented by the Rwanda Environment Management Authority in partnership with the Rwanda Forestry Authority and the Districts of Kamonyi, Nyanza, Ruhango and Gisagara with funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

REMA meets with representatives from GCF accredited entities and other development partners to discuss climate finance



The Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA), the Green Climate Fund (GCF) accredited entities and other development partners met today 16th June 2022 in a high-level structured dialogue to discuss, understand and assess the climate financial needs of Rwanda, as well as to understand how these financial resources can be effectively mobilized.

The dialogue was prepared by REMA – the National Designated Authority (NDA) for the GCF, one of the financial mechanisms of the UNFCCC – and brought together representatives from public and private institutions, local and in-

ternational Non-Governmental Organizations as well as private sector with businesses involved in climate change, environment and biodiversity conservation.

During the dialogue, REMA together with the GCF accredited entities and other development partners shed light on ways to engage with GCF as well as other climate funds.

The funds help countries to become more resilient to climate change threats and give a chance for quality projects to access funding, hence achieving the Nationally Determined Contri-

bution (NDC) targets and practicing country ownership.

"There is no doubt that addressing the impact of climate change is at high cost, and our country is vulnerable to the impact of climate change. In this respect, Climate finance is needed for mitigation, because large-scale investments are required to significantly reduce emissions. Climate finance is equally important for adaptation to the adverse effects of a changing climate, because our economy can only prosper if nature also prospers" said Faustin Munyazikwiye, Deputy Director General of REMA.

Munyazikwiye reminded “that the Government of Rwanda has made it clear through its Nationally Determined Contributions submitted to the UNFCCC, stating that by 2030, Rwanda need USD 11 Billions, to be able to attain its targets that will help to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions by 38% in 2030 and support adaptation actions in key seven sectors (Agriculture, Water, Land and Forestry, Mining, Human Settlement, Health and Cross sectoral response).

The structured dialogue was

an opportunity to highlight and discuss new solutions to the challenges facing our planet and community such as climate change risks and impacts.

In a journey to raise climate finance, “we call upon the government institutions, private sector and NGOs to contribute significantly.

In this line, we encourage more the private engagement in climate actions implementation. Taking these steps will not only benefit the sector but as well

as the community” he added.

Participants reiterated that in order to respond to the above challenges, there is need for innovative policies, redirected investment, environmentally sound technologies, and capacity development to support countries to transition to inclusive green economies. This includes ways to invest in environment and biodiversity management, disaster risk management and coming up with adaptation and mitigation interventions to combat climate change.

It is impressive what Rwanda is doing to rehabilitate wetlands - Danish Delegation



A Danish delegation on official visit to Rwanda, has on Wednesday 06 April 2022 visited wetlands to be rehabilitated under the Second Rwanda Urban Development Project (RUDP2).

RUDP II project came as continuation of the RUDP I with an additional scope of interventions in wetlands rehabilitation, flood control, urban planning and several technical assistance studies to be funded by the World Bank in partnership with Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Nordic Development Fund and Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR).

The Danish delegation led by Ms. Lotte Machon, State Secretary for Development Policy, MFA visited the wetlands to observe rehabilitation process of degraded wetlands in the city of Kigali, and later visited the Nyandungu Eco Park as an example of what wetlands to be rehabilitated under RUDP II could look like.

“In 2018, Rwanda adopted a law on environment that promote wetlands protection. The Government of Rwanda went further and relocated illegal activities in wetlands in a bid to restore the ecological characteristics of

the country's wetlands” Faustin Munyazikwiye, Deputy Director General of the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) told the Danish delegation.

The delegation visited different sites where human activities including garages, shopping malls, and agricultural activities, and houses were relocated from wetlands.

After visiting different sites of wetlands to be rehabilitated, the Danish delegation also visited Nyandungu Eco Park – former Nyandungu wetland which was

also degraded due to human activities – to observe what could be done for the five wetlands to be rehabilitated by RUDP2.

They visited the Pope's Garden created in memory of the historic visit of Pope John Paul II to Rwanda in 1990, the medicinal garden which displays indigenous and local plants, as well as different ponds located in the park named after different lakes in Rwanda including Muhazi, Kivu, Ruhondo and Ihema

"It's impressive. I must say that I

am super impressed by the way that you have laid it out so intelligently. So, I am proud that we are financing rehabilitation of two of the new wetlands" said Ms. Lotte Machon.

In total, five wetlands in the City of Kigali will be rehabilitated by RUDP2 to foster biodiversity and ecosystems services. They include Kibumba, Nyabugogo, Rugenge-Rwintare, Rwampara and Gikondo wetland.

The Danish delegation was composed of Ms. Lotte Machon, State

Secretary for Development Policy, MFA; Ms. Hanne Stig Anderson, Deputy PS, Ministry of Immigration and Integration; Anders T. Friberg, Special Envoy on Migration; H.E. Nicolaj Petersen, Ambassador of Denmark; Søren Larsen, Financial Expert, Ministry of Immigration and Integration; Dorte Chortsen, Senior Adviser (partnership model) Department for Africa, Policy and Development; Mr. Peter Eilschow Olesen, Senior Adviser, Ministry of Immigration and Integration and Camilla Kjærgaard, Legal Expert, Ministry of Immigration and Integration.

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