



RWANDA ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Your Quarterly Newsletter

April - June 2023



Rwanda launches revised Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy

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. Follow us on social media for regular updates and contact the team at communications@rema.gov.rw for any enquiries.



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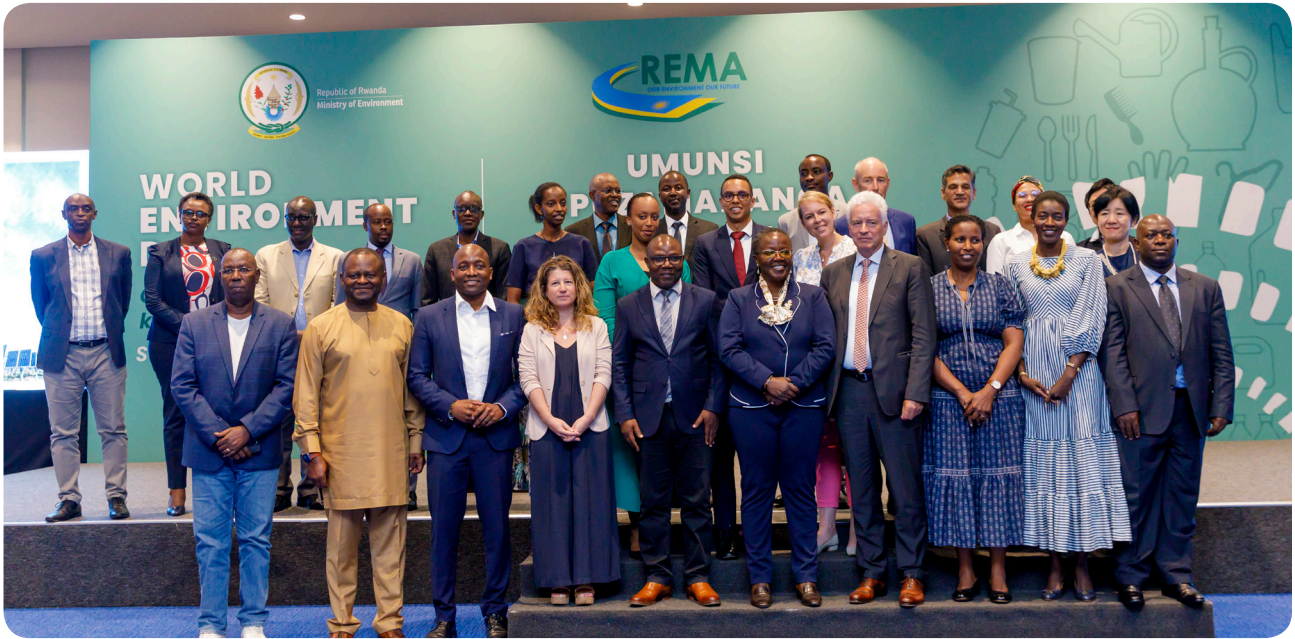


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Rwanda launches revised Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy



Government Officials in a group photo with development partners after the launch of the revised Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy

Rwanda has on June 5, 2023 launched the Revised Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy as part of World Environment Day celebrations. The strategy has been revised by the Ministry of Environment in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme, and aims to define a development pathway for Rwanda that is climate resilient and harnesses green economic innovation.

The Strategy has been updated to align with vision 2050 and will serve as Rwanda's long-term strategy for low-emissions development.

In 2011, Rwanda adopted a ground-breaking Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy (GGCRS) with the aim to be a developed, climate-resilient and low-carbon economy by 2050.

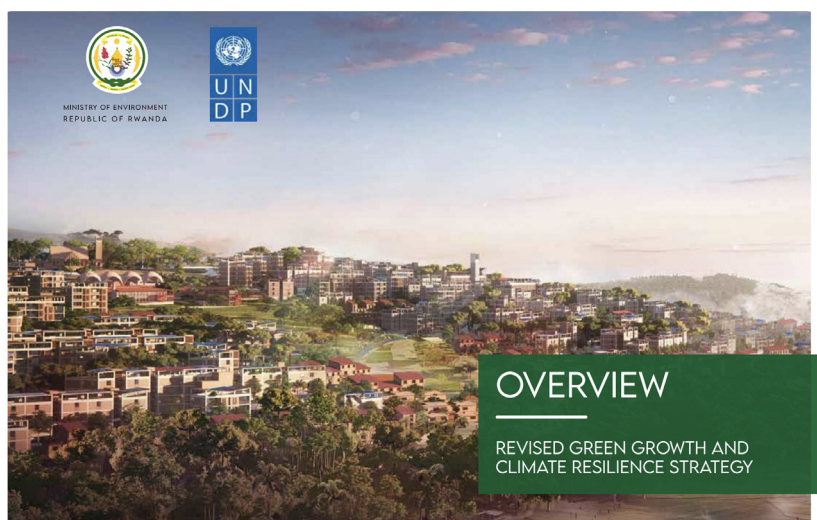
Given the faster than expected impact of climate change and Rwanda's new socio-economic development goals, there was a need to revisit the strategy to ensure it remains relevant and adaptable.

As a result, the Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy has

been updated to ensure it continues to serve as a relevant, effective, and implementable guiding national document.

The revised Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy aims to guide national policy and planning in an integrated way, mainstream climate change into all sectors of the economy, and position Rwanda to access international climate funding and investment. Areas of significant revision include Rwanda's development pathway, thematic programme areas, enabling pillars, and implementation roadmap.

"The launch of the revised Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy marks a pivotal moment in Rwanda's sustainable development journey. This strategy represents our unwavering commitment to addressing climate change and building a resilient and low carbon economy. By aligning our national goals with global priorities, we are taking proactive steps to achieve our ambitious climate action targets. Together, let us seize this opportunity to build a bright future for both people and our planet," said Dr Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya, Rwanda's Minister of Environment.



“The strategy demonstrates Rwanda’s visionary approach to sustainable development and aligns with UNDP’s mission of inclusive and sustainable growth. Together, we empower Rwanda to forge a low-carbon economy, paving the way for a future that prioritises jobs, prosperity, and the health of its people. We are proud to have contributed to the creation of this remarkable strategy,” said Maxwell Gomera, Resident Representative, UNDP Rwanda.

The revised strategy also aims to guide and enhance Rwanda’s NDC Climate Action Plan to re-

duce emissions by 38% by 2030 compared to business as usual.

The specific strategic objectives include ensuring energy security and low-carbon energy supply for green industry and services, promoting sustainable land use and water resource management, and prioritising social protection, health improvement, and disaster risk reduction.

The strategy will require an average of US \$2 billion per annum, of which US \$700 million will come from government budgets and spending. External resource mo-

bilisation will be led by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning and the Rwanda Green Fund.

Climate finance mechanisms such as Ireme Invest - Rwanda’s Green Investment Facility will boost private sector participation in implementing the strategy.

In addition, the Fund will promote partnerships to leverage funding from climate funds, the private sector, enhanced domestic revenues, and other innovative financing mechanisms.

Rwanda marked World Environment Day after weeklong campaign promoting solutions to plastic pollution



Some of REMA and MoE staff during the Celebration of the World Environment Day

Rwanda has on June 5, 2023 joined the rest of the World to mark the World Environment Day (WED 2023), which was marked with the theme “Beat Plastic Pollution” to refocus attention on solutions to plastic pollution.

The World Environment Day celebration concluded a number of activities to encourage all Rwandans to be champions in the fight against plastic pollution, carried out in the National Environment Week marked from May 27 to June 5, 2023.

The week was launched with a monthly community work (Umuganda), where Rwandans across Rwanda joined hands to collect plastic waste in the environment. A number of inspections to enforce the ban on single-use plastics and run an awareness campaign to inform about the dangers of plastic pollution and the alternatives available were also carried out.

Among other activities carried out during the National Environment Week include a “No to

Single use plastic Car Free Day”, School debates, public lectures in higher learning institutions as well as the Environment Protection and Climate Justice Gala Night at the French Cultural Centre, all focused on beating plastic pollution.

“Through the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution - that Rwanda co-chairs with Norway - we have rallied more than 55 countries from all regions of the world to call for an ambitious agreement to end plastic



pollution by 2040. We have just returned from the second round of negotiations in Paris, and while the process is challenging, we are confident we can develop a treaty that will be effective and fit for purpose" said Juliet Kabera,

Director General, Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA).

Kabera added that if done right, the treaty can create well-paying green jobs, attract greater invest-

ment in circular businesses and facilitate the adoption of new technologies in plastic production and waste management.

At the World Environment Day celebration, local companies showcased their solutions to plastic pollution in an exhibition organised in line with this year's World Environment Day theme.

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Minister Mujawamariya officiated the use of LPG donated to 20 schools by REMA through Green Amayaga Project



Minister Mujawamariya lighting an LPG in GS Mater Dei, Nyanza District, to officiate the use of LPG in schools

The Minister of Environment Dr. Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya has on 3rd May 2023 launched the use of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) for bulk cooking in 20 schools from four districts of the Green Amayaga Project intervention area.

The LPG equipment were donated together with 20 tons of gas – one tone per school – by the Rwanda Environment Management Au-

thority (REMA) through the Green Amayaga Project being implemented in Kamonyi, Nyanza, Ruhango, and Gisagara Districts of Rwanda's Southern Province.

LPG use in schools is not a common practice in Rwanda since schools have traditionally relied on firewood for their cooking activities.

Supplying the LPG facilities to the 20 schools is in line with

one of Green Amayaga Project's main objective to reduce the vulnerability of people and ecosystems to the adverse effects of climate change.

The LPG use will not only reduce pressure on forests, it will also reduce emissions, thus contributing to the students' wellbeing, and helping schools to save money that was usually spent to buy firewood.

Schools provided with LPG have praised the benefits of the new cooking system, explaining that it is much more convenient and time saving than traditional cooking methods which also contribute to deforestation.

"It takes less time to heat up and cook food. Additionally, LPG is much cleaner burning than charcoal or firewood, resulting in less smoke which was mostly affecting the cooks, students and the staff in general" said Sister Umumarungu Marie Pelagie, Headteacher of Groupe Scolaire Mater Dei in Nyanza District, Southern Province of Rwanda

Another benefit of LPG cooking is that it is more cost-effective in the long run as the cost is lower, making it a more economical choice for schools.

Father Mbarushimana André, from Sainte Bernadette School in Kamonyi district said that "We could spend Rwf 1.4 million per term with the traditional method but today with the LPG method we spend around Rwf 700 thousand."

The schools are in a process to fully switch to LPGs. "There is still a challenge of high cost of installation equipment, despite that,

we are committed to fully switch to LPGs as we are now aware of LPG benefits compared to biomass fuel use" some school leaders said.



equipment once, you save money and protect the planet from a lot of things that could threaten the environment and human life" She reminded.

Rwanda's Minister of Environment Dr. Mujawamariya reminded that there is nothing costlier than human life, which is the reason why everyone would consider using gas instead of using biomass fuel.

"I would not say that the equipment is expensive, because even cutting down the forests itself is more expensive for us because whenever we use firewood, we pollute the air at the same time polluting ourselves. You buy the

To prevent the risks of cooking gas explosion, staff from the 20 schools were trained with full knowledge and skills to prevent any incident that can lead to that explosion.

So far, each school, at the beginning, was supported with 2 cooking pots that are connected to LPG system. Based on the LPG benefits, some schools are committed to buy more pots to be able to full switch to LPG use in the near future.

The World Bank Vice President visited one of the five wetlands to be rehabilitated in the City of Kigali



From right to left: WB vice president, City of Kigali Lord Mayor and REMA's DG

The World Bank vice President for Eastern and Southern Africa, Victoria Kwakwa, on June 15, 2023 visited Rwampara wetland, one of the five wetlands to be rehabilitated in the City of Kigali.

She visited Rwampara wetland as part of her four-day official visit to Rwanda. The five wetlands will be rehabilitated under the Second Rwanda Urban Development Project (RUDPII), funded by the World Bank and Nordic Development Fund.

She visited also the upgraded Agatare informal settlement, Biryogo car free zone and Agatare tarmacked road done during the first phase of RUDP.

Following her visit, she commanded the contribution of RUDP project for its contribution to communities' livelihoods improvement.

She witnessed the impact of RUDP I such as business opportunities created and roads access in Nyarugenge District, which indicates

that RUDP II will impact even more positively to the community and environment at large.

The wetlands rehabilitation component of RUDP II is being implemented by the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA), with the aim to reduce

flood risks, restore biodiversity, improve water quality and enhance urban landscape and recreational opportunities.

The project is estimated to benefit directly and indirectly approximately 220,500 people.

National Ozone Officers met in Kigali to discuss the implementation of the Montreal Protocol and its Kigali amendment



National Ozone Officers from African English Speaking countries met in Kigali to discuss the implementation of the Montreal Protocol and Kigali Amendment

The Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)'s OzonAction has from 8-12 May 2023 organized a five-day regional network meeting for National Ozone Officers of the English-Speaking African countries back-to-back with Thematic Workshop for customs Officers.

The meeting brought together National Ozone Officers from African countries as well as representatives of partner-organisations to exchange experiences, develop skills, and share knowledge to fulfill their obligations under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

The meeting is also part of the Regional Network service provided by OzonAction's Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) to (developing) countries as part of its role

as an Implementing Agency of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol.

National Ozone Officers from Angola, Botswana, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe are attending the meeting, together with representatives from partner-organisations including the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNEP, Ozone Secretariat and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ).

"As you all know; the ozone layer is a vital shield that protects us from harmful ultraviolet radiation

from the sun. The depletion of the ozone layer due to the release of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) is a global problem that requires everyone's action to address it" said Juliet Kabera, Director General of REMA.

"The government of Rwanda maintains that a healthy ozone layer and climate are key to meeting all of the sustainable development goals, since the Montreal Protocol and its Kigali Amendment protect people and Mother Earth" she added.

Though the journey is still long, Rwanda has realized important achievements regarding the implementation of the Montreal Protocol.

They include its contribution to the development the Kigali Amendment, the ratification of the Kigali



Amendment, reduction in consumption of the ODS by 57%, the promotion of the adoption of low Global Warming Potential alternatives to HFCs by establishing the "National Cooling Strategies", the establishment of the online application system for licensing the import and export of controlled refrigerants and appliance containing HFCs, and those which are energy efficient, and the establishment of Africa Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Cooling and Cold Chain (ACES) among others.

Though some countries have put in place measures to phase out ODS, Patrick Salifu, the regional coordinator for the Montreal Protocol in Anglophone African Countries, said there are still some challenges which undermine efforts invested in the ozone layer recovery, including the illegal trade of ODS in certain African countries.

"You find a country is doing all it can do to phase out but beside you find other people illegally trad-

ing ODS. Mainly it's the issue of illegal trade, in most of the African countries, that is undermining the efforts that we are doing in ozone layer recovery." He said.

Hope for Ozone layer recovery

Despite these challenges, there is hope for the restoration of the ozone layer. Recent studies have shown that the ozone layer is on track to heal completely by the middle of this century.

This is due to various initiatives and policies, including the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, which was adopted in 2016. The amendment was designed to eliminate the production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

Among other facts, it should be noted that various African countries, such as Rwanda and Kenya, have made significant progress in implementing the Montreal Protocol. They have accomplished

this by prohibiting the importation, exportation, and use of products containing ODS, and have implemented strict enforcement measures to ensure compliance.

"You can hear figures like 90% of the gases that were destroying Ozone layer were successfully phased out. But restoration will take time that's why it is predicted that by 2060, the ozone layer will get restored to its original shape."

A thematic workshop will also be conducted to facilitate discussion between Ozone Officers and Customs officers from countries attending the meeting.

The workshop aims to identify current practices and challenges and to brainstorm and agree on an approach to strengthen the enforcement of licensing systems. Customs managers will be involved as they are the ones who deal with the importation and exportation of goods in their respective countries.



REMA launches the Evidence-Based Climate Reporting Initiative to advance climate research and reporting



The Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) in view of implementing the Afrin collaboration in collaboration with the African Institute of Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) have on May 19, 2023 launched the Evidence-based Climate Reporting Initiative (ECRI) to advance climate research and reporting.

The ECRI is an initiative towards capacity strengthening for climate research and reporting. It includes a 9 months training program includes a nine-month training program that will benefit national experts and officials from public and private sector institutions.

The program will build capacity of government and non-government institutions on Advanced Excel for Data Analysis, Climate modelling and GHG Inventories and Projections

Fifty staff representing more than 20 public and private institutions were trained through the ECRI program. Speaking at the launch, Juliet

Kabera, Director General of the Rwanda Environment Management Authority reminded that "Rwanda has embedded climate action into its national development plans; over the short term and long term. The Government of Rwanda therefore makes capacity strengthening a priority to support climate action initiatives"

As an institution that coordinates Nationally Determined Contributions tracking and reporting, REMA ensures to build in-house and sector knowledge and skills on climate research, monitoring and evaluation.

As part of these efforts, REMA and AIMS signed a 5-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and through this partnership, both institutions implement a capacity and knowledge building initiative.

"Our hope is that the staff representing your institutions in this program will gain practical knowledge and skills, and positive change will be realised in monitoring and evaluation of climate

change adaptation and mitigation efforts" said Juliet Kabera at the ECRI launch.

"This course is supportive in different ways. At personal level, it provides new theories as well as practical skills on climate change. At institutional level, it helps to build capacity of employees. For my case I will share the acquired with my colleagues. The course came as an entry point for me and my colleagues to play our part in climate action" said Angelique Kangondo, Trainee and Agriculture Economics Lecturer, Rwanda Inspectorate, Competition and Consumer Protection (RICA).

Rwanda is among countries in Africa to benefit from Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through Conservation International as the Implementing Agency. The Objective of the CBIT Project is to strengthen the capacity of Institutions in Rwanda to fulfil the Transparency Requirements of the Paris Agreement.

Address your feedback to our communications team:
communications@rema.gov.rw

