



RWANDA ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Your Quarterly Newsletter

July - September 2022



Multiple countries unite to end plastic pollution by 2040

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.



Prime Minister Dr. Edouard Ngirente officiated Nyandungu Eco-Park Unveiling



Rwanda and Norway launched a High Ambition Coalition to end plastic pollution



Business Leaders pledge to contribute to Rwanda's ambitious targets in Environmental Protection

Representatives from 26 Nations met in New York to exchange views and priorities for a treaty to end plastic pollution



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

Ministers and representatives from 26 Nations from around the world met on September 22, 2022 in New York on the sidelines of United Nations General Assembly for the first ever Ministerial Meeting of the High Ambition Coalition to end plastic pollution by 2040.

The meeting co-chaired by Rwanda's Minister of Environment Dr. Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya and her Norwegian counterpart was an opportunity to exchange views and priorities for an ambitious treaty to end plastic pollution.

Plastic pollution has reached unprecedented levels and is projected to triple in the coming decades. This is an unacceptable burden to place on the planet and future generations. Business as usual is not an option and we need to build a different future.

Plastic consumption is projected to skyrocket in the coming decades, from 460 million tonnes in 2019 to 1,231 million tonnes in 2060.

The volume of plastics in rivers and lakes will increase from 109 million tonnes in 2019 to 348 mil-

lion tonnes in 2060, while plastics leaking into the ocean will rise from 30 million tonnes in 2019 to 145 million tonnes in 2060.

This is why Norway and Rwanda have formed the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution. The Coalition was initiated following the historic UN Environment Assembly resolution 5/14 passed in March 2022 to start negotiations of an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution.

The Coalition is a group of ambitious countries working for a truly effective global treaty that will establish common global rules, turn

off the plastic tap and end plastic pollution by 2040.

To inform our deliberations and actions, we need a global roadmap based on the best science and the most effective policies for circular economy and waste management.

Our knowledge about plastic pollution is increasing rapidly. It is now estimated that 22 million tons of plastic pollution ends up in nature every year. We know that plastic pollution is found on the highest mountains and deepest trenches in the ocean. Scientists have found microplastic in our blood and within our lungs.



Plastic particles are in our air, soil, food and water.

We know plastic pollution has adverse effects on the environment and human health. But we do not yet know the full extent of this harm. We need more information on the content and composition of chemicals in plastics in order to usher in a circular economy.

We need more reliable statistics on the value chain of plastics, including production, consumption, waste management as well as trade in materials, products and waste. We need to better understand the environmental, economic and social costs as well as the benefits of ending plastic pollution and achieving a circular plastics economy.

Our first goal as the High Ambition Coalition is to restrain plastic consumption and production to sustainable levels. Research and analysis is needed on the control measures that will minimize demand for plastics and increase supply of recycled plastics. What are the most effective policies, economic mechanisms and fi-

ancial incentives to reduce demand, improve product design to enable recycling, and shift towards new products made from recycled materials?

The Coalition's second goal is to enable a vibrant circular economy for plastics that protects the environment and human health. The last thing we want in a circular economy is hazardous and harmful chemicals in an endless loop.

The plastics treaty must ensure global criteria and standards for the design of plastic products so these can be recycled without risks to the environment and human health.

The third goal is to achieve environmentally sound management of plastic waste so that no waste is wasted. Around 75 percent of all plastic produced since 1950 has ended up in landfills or in nature. Three billion people currently do not have access to adequate waste management services. The growth in plastic waste generation is far outpacing investments in waste management. That is

why we need to develop and share state-of-the-art technology that allows for best practice plastic waste recycling around the world.

Keeping plastic in the economy and out of the environment allows for a multitude of approaches, in line with different national circumstances. Waste management is a basic social service as well as a profitable business model. The treaty must establish provisions to incentivize innovation, investment, scaling-up and a just transition in the waste sector to end plastic pollution.

As Co-chairs of the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution, we want an international plastics treaty fit for purpose, based on the best science and most effective policies.

We invite the UN system, international organizations, civil society, academia, business, industry and finance to contribute to our common cause towards developing an ambitious and realistic roadmap to end plastic pollution by 2040.

Rwanda's Prime Minister officiated Nyandungu Eco-Park unveiling



Rwanda's Prime Minister, Dr Edouard Ngirente, has on July 18, 2022 officiated the unveiling of Nyandungu Eco-Park. The event was held on the first day of the Africa Protected Areas Congress, which is taking place in Kigali from 18 to 23 July 2022. The unveiling was also attended by the Former Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Hailemariam Desalegn, Rwanda's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Vincent Biruta and Rwanda's Minister of Environment, Dr Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya.

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At the event, students from the nearby Kigali Parents School had the opportunity to visit the park, join a guided tour to learn about the unique biodiversity on their doorstep, ride bikes along some of the eight kilometres of walking and biking trails, and become birdwatchers for the day.

The students also performed a song welcoming guests to Nyandungu and a delivered poem entitled "Sweet Breath," which calls on humanity to stop environmental degradation and reconnect with nature.



Students from the nearby Kigali Parents School visiting the park

Presenting the history of the park, Juliet Kabera, Director General of the Rwanda Environment Management Authority, shared how Nyandungu Eco-Park has been restored and how it will serve as a blueprint for wetland rehabilitation across the City of Kigali.

"We will rehabilitate additional wetlands in Kigali and work is already underway. In doing so, wetlands in the city can fulfil their proper function and benefit both our environment and people," she said.

The creation of Nyandungu Eco-Park represents the single largest addition to public green space in Kigali's history.

The park provides a space for residents and visitors to the city to explore and learn from nature, and is part of Rwanda's efforts to harness eco-tourism

to restore biodiversity and conserve urban wetland ecosystems.

The restoration of the wetland and creation of an eco-tourism park was funded by the Rwanda Green Fund (FONERWA) with support from the UK Government, the Italian Government through the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Global Environment Facility through the UN Environment Programme.

The six-year initiative has restored the Nyandungu wetland ecosystem and promoted the sustainable management of natural resources. The initiative also created approximately 4,000 green jobs.

Speaking at the event, Urujeni Martine, Vice Mayor in Charge of Social Affairs and Development, reiterated the power of nature as an ally for development, health promotion and

climate change resilience.

"I encourage all Rwandans to take care of wetlands, since conserving wetlands is a collective responsibility to sustainably enjoy their ecosystem services.

The City of Kigali pledges its full support for protection and further development of this eco-park to make it even more attractive," she said.

The Vice Mayor called on all residents in Kigali to protect wetlands by "preventing the dumping of waste and rubbish in wetlands, restoring barrow bits, planting native plants and tree species and stopping unsustainable activities in wetlands."

To conclude the unveiling, Rwanda's Prime Minister, the Former Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Rwanda's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Rwanda's Minister of Environment, the President of IUCN and the CEO of the African Wildlife Foundation planted trees, including *Ficus Ovata* (Umurehe), *Ficus vallis Choudae* (Umudoboli), *Kigelia africana* (Umuvingavungo) and *Markhamia lutea* (Umusave).

The park opened to the public on 8 July 2022 and welcomes visitors seven days a week from 6am-6pm and is managed by QA Venue Solutions Rwanda. Follow @NyandunguPark on Twitter and Instagram for more information about visiting the park.



Prime Minister Edouard Ngirente and Former Prime Minister of Ethiopia (front) touring Nyandungu Eco-Park

Business Leaders pledged to contribute to Rwanda's ambitious targets in Environmental Protection



Business Leaders and REMA staff in a group photo holding a "pledge tree" after a breakfast dialogue hosted by REMA

Business leaders for major companies, NGOs and Banks operating in Rwanda have pledged to accelerate the achievement of Rwanda's high ambitious target of 38% of emissions reduction by 2030, increase forest cover and build a carbon neutral and climate resilient economy by 2050.

They made the pledge during a Business Leaders Breakfast hosted by the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) on 29th September 2022.

The Breakfast dialogue brought together a wide range of partners and stakeholders in environmental protection from banks and green investments among many other companies operating in Rwanda, to share ideas on ways the Private Sector can con-

tribute to Rwanda's ambitious targets in environmental protection.

Rwanda has set an ambitious target to address issues related to the triple planetary crisis namely air pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss. To achieve this, the Government needs "all hands on deck" to join efforts from citizens, government, academia, civil society, and the private sector.

The private sector is uniquely placed to contribute to this effort given its role in setting consumption trends, developing and promoting new technologies.

At the Breakfast dialogue, many Business Leaders made pledges and committed to embed green growth strategies in their plans.

The Cleaner Production and Climate Innovation Centre commits to support 20 more companies operating in Rwanda to include climate actions in their Corporate Social Responsibility agenda for the Net Zero target achievement by 2050" said Sylvie Mugabekazi at the Breakfast Dialogue.

Museveni Paul from Greenpact Africa also added that "Greenpact Africa pledges to accelerate Rwanda's net-zero carbon emissions by 2050"

Many other companies including MTN Rwanda, HIS Rwanda, Ampersand Rwanda Ltd, Greenleaf Motors Rwanda and banks including Bank of Kigali and Equity Bank pledged to contribute to Rwanda's climate action by not only rolling out electric vehicles but also increasing forest cover.



The Director General of REMA, Juliet Kabera commended the private sector efforts and willing to join hands with the Government to build a carbon neutral and a climate resilient economy by 2050.

"We really appreciate Business Leaders for having honored our invitation today. Your pledges to contribute to the Net Zero targets are valuable, and we look forward to continuing collaborating with you to build a carbon neutral and a climate resilient economy" said Juliet Kabera.

REMA successfully concluded a Biodiversity and Environment Exhibition



Participants visited the Ellen de Generes Campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund

The Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) through the Biodiversity Finance Initiative Project has on 16th September 2022 concluded a five-day Biodiversity and Environmental Friendly Exhibition held in Musanze District from 12th to 16th September 2022.

The Biodiversity exhibition brought together a wide range of participants from different stakeholders with interventions in biodiversity conservation at national level, including but not limited to Government institutions, Development Partners, non-government organizations, Academia and Private companies.

This exhibition aimed to communicate biodiversity conservation status at national level, showcase existing investment opportunities in biodiversity and environment friendly initiatives at national level, and share experience and create networks amongst different stakeholders to attract more financing in biodiversity conservation.

Despite ongoing conservation efforts, biodiversity is deteriorating

worldwide and this decline is projected to continue or worsen under business-as-usual scenarios.

Participants to the exhibition called for a quick action to preserve the biological diversity, as its loss negatively affect life on Earth as “we are all interlinked”.

Rwanda's development agenda recognizes the important and central role that biodiversity and natural resources play in terms

as in the provision of critical ecosystem services such as water, soil erosion and flood control as well as climate change mitigation.

To protect the biodiversity, Rwanda has embarked on boarder to boarder landscape and forest restoration by restoring degraded landscape, forests and wetlands which are habitats for biodiversity.

Participants to the exhibition got an opportunity to visit the EL-



of supporting the country's economic growth, livelihoods, as well

len de Generes Campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund to learn

REMA's DG discussed Circular Economy in a side event at the United Nations General Assembly



REMA's Director General, Juliet Kabera (second from right) speaking in an event at UNGA77 in New York

The Director General of the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA), Juliet Kabera, on 20th September 2022, joined a roundtable meeting in New York on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly to discuss circular economy.

This meeting convened a high-level, cross-industry, and multistakeholder community of leaders to shape the circular transformation of the global economy.

The world has changed in the past years following climate, public health and geopolitical crises that put the global economy under stress.

A circular transformation is no longer only a sustainability imperative, but also a way to increase supply chain resiliency and an opportunity to develop new competitive business models.

Kabera reminded that we live in a world of unsustainable consumption and overexploitation of resources, and if the global popu-

lation reaches 9.6 billion by 2050, the equivalent of almost three planets will be required to provide the natural resources needed to sustain current lifestyles.

The only one earth we have is vast in size, but it's resources are finite and rapid increases in consumption have created what is referred to as the "triple planetary crisis." The crises include pollution, biodiversity loss and climate change.

"No doubt, this unsustainable production and consumption of goods has a negative impact on the wellbeing of nature, and people" she said.

The good news is that governments, can use their purchasing power to choose goods, services and works with a reduced environmental impact, by putting in place effective policies that serve as a critical enabler to accelerate and scale up circular actions in the economy. By way of example, in 2018, the Government

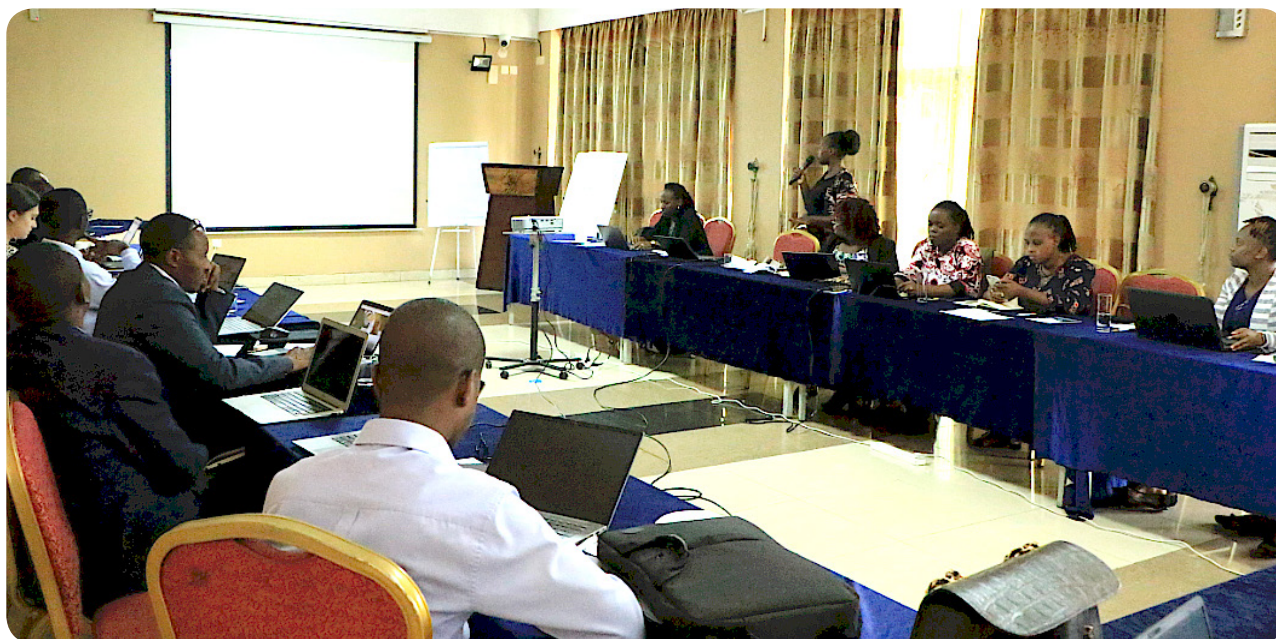
of Rwanda passed the Environment and Climate Change Policy which called for development of green procurement guidelines.

This was a new concept to us but we surely knew that it was the right thing to do and in partnership with the Global Green Growth Institute we developed that guidelines with the intension of guiding public procurement of goods, services and works.

"Now if there's anything am super proud of about my country, is that implementation of such policy actions is not optional" Kabera added.

Kabera reiterated that effective policy-making is crucial in accelerating and scaling up circular actions in the economy, as good policies support businesses in overcoming hurdles by stimulating innovative projects and long-term investments in circularity, facilitating collaboration and partnerships, and producing tangible results.

DHWG and LDCF3 Projects stakeholders agreed on activities to be carried out during both Projects implementation



Stakeholders of the DHWG Project reviewing the Project activities plan before agreeing on them

The Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have on September 27, 2022 convened an inception workshop with stakeholders of two new projects under REMA's implementation to agree on activities to be carried out during the projects implementation.

Two new projects – Decoupling Hazardous Waste Generation from Economic Growth in Rwanda (DHWG) and the Ecosystem/Landscape Approach to Climate Proof the Rural Settlement Programme of Rwanda (LDCF3) – are set to be launched end October 2022.

The DHWG and LDCF3 Project aim to provide global environmental benefits by enhancing reusing

and recycling and build communities' resilience to the impact of climate change.

The inception workshop is organised at the beginning of the project implementation to introduce the project, its objectives, anticipated results and activities to be undertaken during the project implementation. It also clarifies roles and responsibilities, discuss and agree on decisions and reaffirm commitments amongst project stakeholders.

Stakeholders of both projects reviewed the activities plans and agreed on the plans after making slight changes. They also committed to actively contribute to the projects implementation to ensure all the planned activities are achieved within the projects

timelines.

The DHWG is a five-year Project that will be implemented across Rwanda by REMA in partnership with stakeholders including the Rwanda Green Fund (FONERWA) and the Private Sector Federation (PSF) to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of hazardous waste, whereas LDCF3 is six-year initiative that will be implemented by REMA, Meteo Rwanda, Rwanda Housing Authority and the Districts of Gakenke and Kirehe to build communities resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Both projects will be implemented with financial support from the Global Environment Facility through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

LDCF3 Project beneficiaries committed to actively participate in the project implementation

The Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) conducted consultation meetings with stakeholders and beneficiaries of a new project which will be implemented by REMA, Meteo Rwanda, Rwanda Housing Authority and the Districts of Gakenke and Kirehe.

The Ecosystem/Landscape Approach to Climate Proof the Rural Settlement Programme of Rwanda, also known as LDCF3 Project is a six-year initiative aimed to putting Rwanda's Rural Settlement Programme (Imidugudu) on a climate-resilient pathway.

It will also secure the programme's development gains in the face of uncertainties emanating from climate change by building and strengthening the resilience of most vulnerable inhabitants in both Districts through climate smart agricul-

ture and diversification of livestock systems, thus increase land productivity and diversify sources of household incomes.

It will also build and strengthen the resilience of most vulnerable inhabitants in both Districts through climate smart agriculture and diversification of livestock systems, which will increase land productivity and diversify sources of household incomes.

From 13th to 15th September 2022, the Project staff conducted consultation meetings with beneficiaries and local leaders in Gakenke and Kirehe Districts to explain the project's interventions and mobilize beneficiaries and local leaders to actively contribute to the project implementation.

"We have a serious problem of landslides and erosion which account lives of innocent people and wash out crops on hillsides. We believe that the LDCF3 Project will help us tackle these is-

sues. We are eager to support the implementation of this project, as we are the ones to benefit from it" said Nyirahabimana Claudine, a resident in Muyongwe Sector, Gakenke District.

Districts officials also assure that the LDCF3 project comes at a right time, saying that it will not only solve climate and environment related problems, but also help beneficiaries get out of poverty as it will create green jobs and

improve communities' livelihood. The implementation of LDCF3 Project activities has started, but an official launch of the project is being prepared to take place end of October 2022.

LDCF3 Project is implemented with REMA and stakeholders with support of the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



Contact and follow us

 Inyota House KG7 AVE
Kigali, Rwanda

 Hotline: 3989

 www.rema.gov.rw

 info@rema.gov.rw

 @REMA_Rwanda

 @rema_rwanda

 Rwanda Environment Management Authority(REMA)

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communications@rema.gov.rw

