



RWANDA ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Your Quarterly Newsletter

October - December 2022



President Kagame launched Ireme Invest at COP27 in Egypt

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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Rwanda called for greater climate action and shared green investment opportunities at COP27



REMA and AIMS launched Kigali City Framework for Noise and Air Quality Monitoring Campaign



Rwanda launches a new initiative to advance climate change adaptation

President Paul Kagame launched “Ireme Invest” at COP27 in Egypt



President Kagame with Rwanda Team at COP27 and other Partners in a group photo after the Ireme Invest launch

The President of the Republic of Rwanda, His Excellency Paul Kagame has on November 7, 2022 launched Ireme Invest at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) happening in Egypt, Sharm El Sheikh.

Ireme Invest is a ground-breaking new investment facility powered by the Rwanda Green Fund and the Development Bank of Rwanda (BRD) with support from a range of valued partners. Ireme Invest – a one stop center for green and sustainable investment – was launched with an initial capitalization of \$104M to support the Private sector to access green finance.

“Climate adaptation requires big changes in how we produce and consume energy. How we move around, all that depends on climate adaptation and change. What we eat, and how it’s grown. All that comes together. In short the entire economy is affected, which means the private sector has a tremendous role to play” said President Kagame on the launch of Ireme Invest.

“Ireme Invest embodies Rwanda’s commitment to achieving

tangible results toward a green economy through public-private partnerships in key areas” President Kagame added.

Today’s launch of Ireme Invest marks a significant milestone on Rwanda’s sustainable finance journey.

President Kagame commended the Development Bank of Rwanda for the seed capital it has invested in this fund, building on the solid track record of the Rwanda Green Fund (FONERWA).

He also appreciated partner institutions including the Govern-

ments of France, Sweden and the United Kingdom, as well as the European Investment Bank and the Green Climate Partnership Fund noting that without them all that being done by Rwandan institutions would not go very far.

President Kagame noted that these partners have contributed to the first round of capitalisation, bringing the total to more than \$100 million.

The launch of Ireme Invest at COP27 convened leaders from global finance institutions and partners who have committed to this green finance initiative.



Rwanda called for greater climate action and shared green investment opportunities at COP27



Team Rwanda at COP27 - From left to right: Herman Hakuzimana (Deputy Lead Negotiator for Rwanda), Dr. Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya (Minister of Environment), Faustin Munyazikwiye (Lead Negotiator for Rwanda) and Marie Dalie Dukuze (Negotiator for Rwanda)

At the 2022 United Nations Conference on Climate Change Conference (COP27) which took place in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, Rwanda pressed for more ambitious climate action and shared the country's green investment opportunities.

- Event on Green Investment Opportunities in Rwanda - Rwanda Green Fund, Rwanda Finance Limited and Winrock International
- Event on The Future of Carbon Markets in Rwanda - Rwanda Environment Management Authority

The COP27 has been an opportunity to:

- Promote Rwanda as an ideal destination for green investment
- Share the diverse opportunities that exist across Rwanda
- Highlight Rwanda's track record in delivering climate action and vision for a carbon neutral future by 2050

At the Rwanda Pavilion, the delegation hosted events and launched initiatives that will shape the future of the sustainable finance ecosystem in Rwanda, and enable the private sector to play a greater role in the country's climate action efforts. These include:

- Launch of Ireme Invest: Rwanda's Green Investment Facility - Rwanda Green Fund and the Development Bank of Rwanda
- Launch of the Rwanda Sustainable Finance Roadmap - Rwanda Finance Limited
- Launch of the Rwanda NDC Facility - Government of Germany and Rwanda Green Fund

Rwanda has an ambitious plan to reduce emissions by 38% by 2030 compared to business as usual and is working with national and international partners to attract the sustainable green investments needed to achieve this goal. COP27 served as a forum to advance these efforts and engage new partners to join Rwanda's green growth journey.

"Rwanda is an ideal destination for green investment because we have a clear vision and an enabling environment. At COP27, Rwanda will take a strong voice and call for meaningful action to reduce global emissions, increase climate financing for adaptation and ensure the frameworks agreed on carbon markets and loss and damage are fair and effective" said Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya, Minister of Environment ahead of the conference.

Rwanda's delegation to COP27 included senior leaders from government, civil society, the private sector as well as young people active in environmental protection.

Rwanda launches a new initiative to advance climate change adaptation



Leaders and Project beneficiaries in community works to officially launch the project activities

The Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have on October 27, 2022 launched the “Landscape Approach to Climate Proof the Rural Settlements Project – a Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded Project – to advance climate change adaptation initiatives.

The six-year initiative will contribute to the implementation of the National Strategy for Transformation (NST1) by not only putting Rwanda’s Rural Settlement Programme (Imidugudu) on a climate-resil-

ient pathway, but also secure the programme’s development gains in the face of uncertainties from climate change, and contribute to the country’s recovery from the impacts of COVID-19.

The USD 8,855,638 project will promote nature-based solutions and biodiversity protection by controlling erosion on hillsides, planting agroforestry trees, planting forests and protecting riverbanks.

The project will also strengthen gender equality in the process of climate proofing the Imidugudu and build the resilience

of the most vulnerable residents through climate smart agriculture and diversification of livestock systems, which will increase land productivity and diversify sources of household incomes.

“This project will build climate resilience for communities in Gakenke and Kirehe and improve livelihoods by creating green jobs and distributing livestock to vulnerable residents. We encourage communities in the project intervention zones to actively contribute to its implementation and take advantage of the opportunities this project brings,” said Juliet Kabera, Director General, Rwanda Environment Management Authority.

The Landscape Approach to Climate Proof the Rural Settlements Project will cover 191 villages in Gakenke and Kirehe districts, providing improved dwellings and managing landscapes with improved ecosystems services, among many other activities.

“We can’t choose between healthy ecosystems and the wealth of society! With the Government of Rwanda, UNDP has opt-



ed to promote climate proof rural settlement approach to increase the adaptive capacity of communities and ecosystems to climate change" said Maxwell Gomera, UNDP Resident Representative.

The Landscape Approach to Climate Proof the Rural Settlements Project will be implemented by REMA in partnership with Meteo Rwanda, Rwanda Housing Authority, the Rwanda Agriculture Board (RAB) and Gakenke and Kirehe districts with support of the GEF through UNDP.

"You don't need to be a biologist to save the planet! Environmental protection and restoration is not just a matter of natural sciences. If we continue to treat 'the environment' separately from 'the economy,' our time left to act is going

to slip away. There is a role for everyone to achieve carbon neutrality in the sustainability effort" said Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, CEO and Chairperson, Global Environment Facility

Rwanda is undertaking border-to-border landscape and ecosystem restoration under the Bonn Challenge. All of these initiatives are in line with Rwanda's commitment to implement international commitments in areas of climate change and build a climate resilient country by 2050.

Key Project Facts:

- Around 23,560 hectares will be restored to build a climate-resilient pathway for Rwanda's Rural Settlement Programme
- Around 56,000 people (of whom 50% will be women) will

directly benefit from the project within its six years of implementation

- 15,000 green jobs will be created through ecosystem restoration and development of green rural settlement.
- The project will develop and construct basic infrastructures including 500 houses, supply of rainwater harvesting tanks, contribute to Girinka Programme, distribute cookstoves and finance income generating activities
- The project will adopt climate smart agricultural practices and more effective utilization of existing value chains, thus increasing land productivity, food security and incomes.

Negotiations on global treaty to end plastic pollution begun in Uruguay



Representatives of Nations from around the world attended the first INC Meeting

Rwanda joined nations around the world in Uruguay to begin drafting a global treaty to end plastic pollution with the first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC1), which will develop an Internationally legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution.

The session took place in Punta del Este from 28 November to 2 December 2022, following multi-stakeholder and regional consultations as well as bureau meetings held on 26 and 27 November 2022 respectively.

The idea to develop a global treaty to end plastic pollution was initiated by Rwanda and later supported by Peru before it was passed as a resolution at the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2) held in March in Nairobi.

The historic resolution to end plastic pollution and forge an international legally binding agreement by 2024 is considered the most important environment-related resolution taken since the adoption of the Paris Agreement in December 2015.

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The process to draft and negotiate the treaty will take two years. The aim is to eliminate plastic waste upstream during production and polymer formation, mid-stream at product g and downstream during waste management.

At the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, every continent was represented by two countries. Africa was represented by Rwanda and Senegal, which will serve as Bureau Members.

"We are delighted that the drafting of a global treaty on plastic pollution has now started. As the initiator of this treaty, Rwanda looks forward to working with other nations to create a legally-binding framework which holds us all accountable for ending plastic pollution by 2040," said Juliet Kabera, Director General of the Rwanda Environment Management Authority and Rwanda's representative on the INC.

The Bureau of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, which will be formally elected during this first meeting, will provide guidance in organizing the meetings of INC1.

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee will develop a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. The instrument is to be based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastic.

The INC will consider how to promote sustainable production and consumption of plastics from product design to environmentally sound waste management through resource efficiency and circular economy approaches.

The creation of a global treaty to end plastic pollution aims to facilitate international cooperation through technology and knowledge sharing, as well as creating appropriate mechanisms for investment. This collaborative spirit will ensure the world can take full advantage of the economic opportunities created by a viable and vibrant circular economy for plastic.

Rwanda is also Co-Chair of the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution, and has joined more than 50 fellow members to send a united message to step up global ambition to end plastic pollution by 2040.

REMA launched a five year Project to improve hazardous waste management



REMA's Director General Juliet Kabera welcoming participants in the launch event

The Rwanda Environment Management Authority and the United Nations Development Programme have on 8/12/2022 launched a five-year project to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of hazardous wastes.

The five year "Hazardous Waste Management Project" will contribute to the Government's ambitious commitment to support public and private institutions to improve hazardous wastes management. This will be done by introducing and enhancing the "Reuse, Reduce, Recycle and Recover" approach in priority industries and economic sectors, to ensure the sound management of wastes.



“This project will support Rwanda to inventory, and understand the quantities and types of hazardous in Rwanda, raise awareness of the different categories of people who are at the center of generating wastes, and come up with best disposal mechanisms for hazardous wastes which will then create green jobs in the process of collection, transportation and disposal” said Juliet Kabera, Director General, Rwanda Environment Management Authority.

The 7 Million USD Project support in developing a legal framework for the sound management of chemicals, hazardous and toxic waste as long as safer alternatives.

It will also support in identifying the types, volumes and locations of chemicals, toxic and hazardous waste generation, and identify key sectors such as industries, healthcare, pharmacies, and agriculture, among others.

The Project will also support the establishment of hazardous waste treatment facilities including interim storage, as well as raise awareness on the sound management of waste at all levels.

“This project came at the right time when we look for sustainable solutions to minimize waste generated, strengthening our policies and strategies that promote sustainable production and consumption; and it kicks off the implementation of the National Circular Economy Action Plan and roadmap we launched two days ago” said

Dr. Jeanne d’Arc Mujawamariya, Minister of Environment.

Rwanda has made great steps forward in managing waste from banning plastic bags in 2008 and establishing the e-waste recycling facility in 2018. “However, we are still learning and strengthening our mechanisms to have a carbon-neutral economy by 2050. Nevertheless, there are still shortcomings that are exposing the country to severe impacts of improper waste management including hazardous wastes” Minister Mujawamariya added.

As a fast-growing economy with rapid urbanization, Rwanda is experiencing an increase in the amount of domestic and municipal waste, as well as the increase of toxic, hazardous, and chemical wastes from Industrial and economic sectors, which affect land, air, and the quality of waterbodies.

“The initiative will highlight how the waste management project is a key stepping stone towards a circular economy. The first step is

to eliminate waste and pollution to reduce threats to biodiversity” said Maxwell Gomera, Resident Representative, UNDP Rwanda.

The Hazardous Waste Management Project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through UNDP, and will be implemented by REMA in partnership with stakeholders in the public and private sector.

The project will prevent chemicals containing Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), Mercury (Hg), and Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) among others from entering Rwanda.

Current storage of hazardous wastes in Rwanda:

- 122 Metric tons of Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) oil in transformers
- 250 Metric tons of Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCBs) contaminated soil
- 3 Metric tons of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) pesticides
- 44 Metric tons of Non-Persistent Organic Pollutants pesticides
- 35 Metric tons of Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE)
- 35,000 Metric tons of products containing PBDE
- 1 Metric ton of Mercury (Hg)
- 40 Metric tons of products containing mercury

All of the above hazardous wastes are expected to be disposed of by the end of the project in 2027. Disposing these wastes will result in reducing and avoiding 24.5gTEQ of emissions.



REMA and AIMS launched Kigali City Framework for Noise and Air Quality Monitoring Campaign



One of the sensors (installed at AIMS Headquarters) which will support in monitoring noise and air pollution

The Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) in partnership with the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) have on November 25, 2022 launched the Kigali City Framework for Noise and Air Quality Monitoring Campaign.

In many low and middle-income countries particularly Sub-Saharan, data on air pollution is scarce, thus limiting policy planning and implementation. The campaign launched today aims to monitor the level of noise and air pollution in the City of Kigali to inform decisions of policy makers on matters related to air and noise pollution.

The Kigali city monitoring campaign will provide a comprehensive environmental dataset of high spatial and temporal resolution for noise and air pollution. The data will therefore be utilized to improve understanding of sources and distribution of environmental stressors across the City of Kigali, and provide a resource for future application in areas such as health studies, planning advice, public engagement, and enforcement.

AIMS researchers together with REMA, will develop mathematical models for air pollution forecasting that estimate air pollution

across Kigali City to map the existing real data with the satellite, and using the predictive models, bridge gap.

“To monitor the level of air and noise pollution, 13 sensors will be installed across Kigali to provide real-time data on the level of pollution and more sensors are going to be shipped in January 2023. AIMS will install 9 fixed sensors, but also there will be 135 rotational sites. The sites have been carefully selected by AIMS, REMA and Rwanda Meteorology Agency by involving University of Massachusetts Amherst and University of Ghana. One sensor has already been installed at AIMS” said Wilfred Ndifon, the Chief Scientific Officer At AIMS Global Secretariat.



“Air quality monitoring and air pollution control is among REMA's priority in protecting the environment. We are all responsible for the quality of the air we breathe. Rwanda's air quality monitoring system gives us the information we need to address air pollution, and provides information to citizens about the status of the air where they live and work.

Though a lot has been done, the air quality monitoring equipment we have is not enough for a high spatial coverage. With the additional 13 sensors we will be able to have high spatial resolution data that lead us in decision making. This new campaign will help us to measure and boost the impact of the interventions we have introduced to reduce air and noise pollution to ensure a better life for all” said Juliet Kabera, Director General, Rwanda Environment Management Authority

Rwanda has developed a countrywide Air Quality Monitoring System which provides data on the quality of the air in 23 sites across Rwanda.

The Air Quality Monitoring System was developed through the Air Quality and Climate Change Monitoring Project, which has been funded by the Rwanda Green Fund (FONERWA).

It was designed in collaboration with Massachusetts Institute of Technology and implemented by the Rwanda Environment Management Authority and Rwanda’s

Ministry of Education. The system provides real-time Air Quality Index (AQI) for each station in both numerical and colour code format.

The system highlights the dominant air pollutant which is responsible for air quality degradation during the reported period for each station. It will help Rwanda to compare ground observations data with satellite data through remote sensing technology to verify their accuracy.

The system strengthens Rwanda’s existing field installed air quality

monitoring network by providing online access to pollution readings from each station as well as data management including data sharing mechanisms.

According to the results of a recent study, Rwanda is being affected by all major pollutants. The research shows that vehicle emissions are the leading source of air pollution in Kigali.

Other contributors to poor air quality in Rwanda include the industrial sector, charcoal cookstoves and agricultural waste burning.



Our Partners



Address your feedback to our communications team:
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