



RWANDA ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Your Quarterly Newsletter

October - December 2023



Rwanda welcomes historic COP28 decision to transition away from fossil fuels

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.



Rwanda launches Carbon Market Framework to advance climate action for a sustainable future



Carbon Market: Rwanda signs cooperation agreement with Singapore and Kuwait



From reluctance to acceptance: LDCF3 Project beneficiaries embrace terraces for agricultural transformation

Rwanda welcomes historic COP28 decision to transition away from fossil fuels



The Closing Plenary at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) at Expo City Dubai on 13 December 2023, UAE.

The Government of Rwanda has welcomed the ground-breaking decision made at the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), marking a significant step towards a more sustainable future and achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.

The historic resolution, known as the UAE Consensus, calls for a tripling of renewable energy generation and a global transition away from fossil fuels, aligning with Rwanda's commitment to

addressing climate change.

The COP28 resolution, achieved through collaborative efforts and diplomatic negotiations among nations, sets a new milestone in the global fight against climate change. Rwanda commends the international community for its commitment to fostering a low-carbon economy and addressing the pressing challenges posed by climate change.

"Rwanda stands behind the resolutions adopted at COP28. The operationalisation of loss and

damage fund as well as the adoption of common targets to measure adaptation actions under Global Goal on adaptation are the key milestones. Indeed, COP28 resolutions recognise the urgent need for a global shift towards sustainable energy sources. This historic decision to transition away from fossil fuels reflects the shared responsibility of nations to safeguard our planet for future generations. Everyone's task now is to put words into action." said Rwanda's Minister of Environment, Dr. Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya.



Rwanda has an ambitious goal to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and promote a circular economy. As part of its commitment to the resolution, Rwanda will implement strategies and initiatives that promote renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable practices across all sectors. At COP28, Rwanda joined the Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge, which calls for a tripling of the world's installed renewable energy generation capacity by 2030.

In addition to embracing the COP28 resolution, Rwanda looks forward to collaborating with international partners, sharing expertise, and contributing to the development of innovative solutions that address climate change.

Rwanda urges all nations to join hands in the spirit of solidarity and cooperation, ensuring the successful implementation of the COP28 resolution and fostering a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable planet for current and future generations.

At COP28, Rwanda launched its National Carbon Market Framework in a significant stride towards a greener and more sustainable future. The country also hosted more than 20 events at the Rwan-

da Pavilion and strengthened partnerships with a range of bilateral and multilateral partners. Rwanda's delegation at COP28 also saw greater private sector participation, with both the Bank of Kigali and the Development Bank of Rwanda signing a number of partnerships to increase funding for private sector led climate action and green growth.

The country also showcased its Green Taxonomy Working Paper, which will further position Rwanda as an ideal destination for green investment.

Other important decisions reached by nations at COP28 include:

Parties reached a historic agreement on the Loss and Damage

Fund and funding arrangements. Commitments to the fund now total more than USD 700 million.

Climate finance, considered a great enabler of climate action, took centre stage at COP28. Financial pledges and contributions so far made at COP28 reach 83.7 Billions USD including Loss and Damage: \$726 million; Green Climate Fund: \$3.5 billion (increasing second replenishment to \$12.8 billion); Adaptation Fund: \$134 million; Least Developed Countries Fund: \$129.3 million; Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF): \$31 million; to name a few.

COP28 also saw Parties agree to Azerbaijan as host of COP29 from 11-22 November 2024, and Brazil as COP30 host from 10-21 November 2025.



A historic decision to transition a way from fossil fuel was adopted at COP28

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Rwanda launched Carbon Market Framework to advance climate action for a sustainable future



The Closing Plenary at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) at Expo City Dubai on 13 December 2023, UAE.

Rwanda has on December 2, 2023 launched its National Carbon Market Framework in a significant stride towards a greener and more sustainable future. The framework was launched on the sidelines of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai, UAE.

Rwanda has a bold vision to be climate resilient and carbon neutral by 2050. To achieve this ambitious goal, the Government of Rwanda has taken a groundbreaking step to establish a carbon market framework.

This first ever carbon market framework blueprint underscores Rwanda's commitment to combating climate change and fostering a sustainable future.

"As we embark on this transformative journey, we recognise the importance of collaboration, innovation, and shared responsibility in shaping a low-carbon economy. Together, we have the opportunity to drive positive change, foster green growth, and build a resilient environment," said Dr. Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya, Minister of Environment.

The framework sets rules for the trading of carbon credits, encouraging businesses and industries to adopt cleaner practices and invest in sustainable technologies. The framework aims to help to increase the transparency and trust among the carbon traders.

"Bringing more of these carbon markets onto exchanges will enhance transparency and bring greater confidence to the carbon market, which extends to pricing mechanisms and the prevention of double counting," Minister Mujawamariya added.



Carbon trading works by setting a limit on the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions a country can produce. Industries are then allocated emissions allowances, and those with excess allowances can sell them to those exceeding their own limits. This creates a financial incentive for businesses to reduce their carbon footprint.

Rwanda's Carbon Market Framework was commissioned by the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA), the car-

bon market regulator, with support from the United Nations Development Programme. The establishment of the framework demonstrates Rwanda's commitment to achieve emission reduction targets set out in Rwanda's NDC Climate Action Plan.

Rwanda will offer high quality carbon credits that will not only provide climate benefits, but also empower communities and protect and restore biodiversity.

"The framework will ensure that every credit bought in Rwanda will be done in a way that is transparent, verified and meets the requirements of the interna-

tional carbon market," said Juliet Kabera, Director General, Rwanda Environment Management Authority.

Rwanda's carbon market will operate on a cap-and-trade system, allowing businesses to buy and sell carbon credits. This market-driven approach provides economic incentives for companies to reduce their carbon footprint.

Rwanda is committed to collaborating with international partners, businesses, and organisations to enhance the effectiveness of the Carbon Market Framework. This includes sharing best practices, promoting knowledge transfer,

and participating in global efforts to address climate change.

Projects seeking to generate carbon credits will undergo rigorous validation and certification processes to ensure they meet internationally recognised standards. This guarantees the credibility and environmental integrity of the carbon credits traded on the market.

At today's Carbon Market Framework launch, Rwanda signed cooperation agreements with Singapore and Kuwait towards the implementation of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, which governs the carbon market.

Carbon Market: Rwanda signed cooperation agreement with Singapore and Kuwait



Rwanda's Minister of Environment Dr. Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya signing cooperation agreements with Singapore on the implementation of article 6 of the Paris Agreement of the Carbon market on December 2.

Rwanda on December 2, 2023 signed cooperation agreements with Singapore and Kuwait towards the implementation of article 6 of the Paris Agreement that governs the Carbon market.

The agreements were signed at the launch of Rwanda's Carbon Market Framework, during the 2023 UN Climate Change Conference – COP28, in Dubai, UAE.

Carbon markets are trading systems in which carbon credits are sold and bought. Companies or individuals can use carbon markets to compensate for their greenhouse gas emissions by purchasing carbon credits from entities that remove or reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

One tradable carbon credit equals one tonne of carbon di-

oxide (CO₂), or the equivalent amount of a different greenhouse gas reduced, sequestered (absorbed), or avoided. When a credit is used to reduce, sequester, or avoid emissions, it becomes an offset and is no longer tradable.

Article 6 of the Paris Agreement allows countries to voluntarily cooperate with each other to achieve emission reduction targets set out



Rwanda Green Fund's CEO, Teddy Mugabo signing cooperation agreements with Kuwait towards the implementation of article 6 of the Paris Agreement

in their NDCs. This means that, under Article 6, a country (or countries) will be able to transfer carbon credits earned from the reduction of greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions to support one or more countries meet climate targets. The article creates the basis for trading in GHG emission reductions (or "mitigation outcomes") across countries.

Carbon trading is among innovative climate finance solutions that will help Rwanda to deliver on its target to reduce emissions by 38 per cent by 2030.

While officiating at the launch of the Framework, the Minister of Environment, Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya, said that it is a crucial move to advance climate action and facilitate Rwanda's participation and maximise carbon market opportunities.

Rwanda's Carbon Market Framework was commissioned by Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA), with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Rwanda.

Its establishment demonstrates Rwanda's commitment to achieve emission reduction targets set out in Rwanda's updated nationally determined contribution (NDC) – a climate action plan to cut emissions and adapt to climate impact.

The framework will help in bringing confidence to the market and reduce uncertainty for project participants, particularly for the private sector. It establishes a governance and institutional structure that will make it possible for Rwanda to make further considerations regarding its participation in carbon markets.

In addition, the framework provides an operationalisation of operational/technical elements, such as determining specific procedures necessary to participate, including but not limited to, the project cycle, requirements to ensure environmental integrity, and processes for reporting.

"The framework will ensure that every credit bought in Rwanda will be done in a way that is transparent, verified and meets the require

ments of the international carbon market," said Juliet Kabera, Director General, Rwandanda Environment Management Authority.

Rwanda developed adequate domestic carbon crediting guidelines, including institutional, legal and governance structures and robust national carbon market registry to avoid double counting of GHG emissions.

In Rwanda's updated NDC, the government commits itself to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 38 per cent through unconditional and conditional measures in agriculture, energy, waste, and industrial processes and product use; and will drive adaptation across eight sectors: water, agriculture, and forestry, human settlement, health, transport, mining, and cross-sectional.

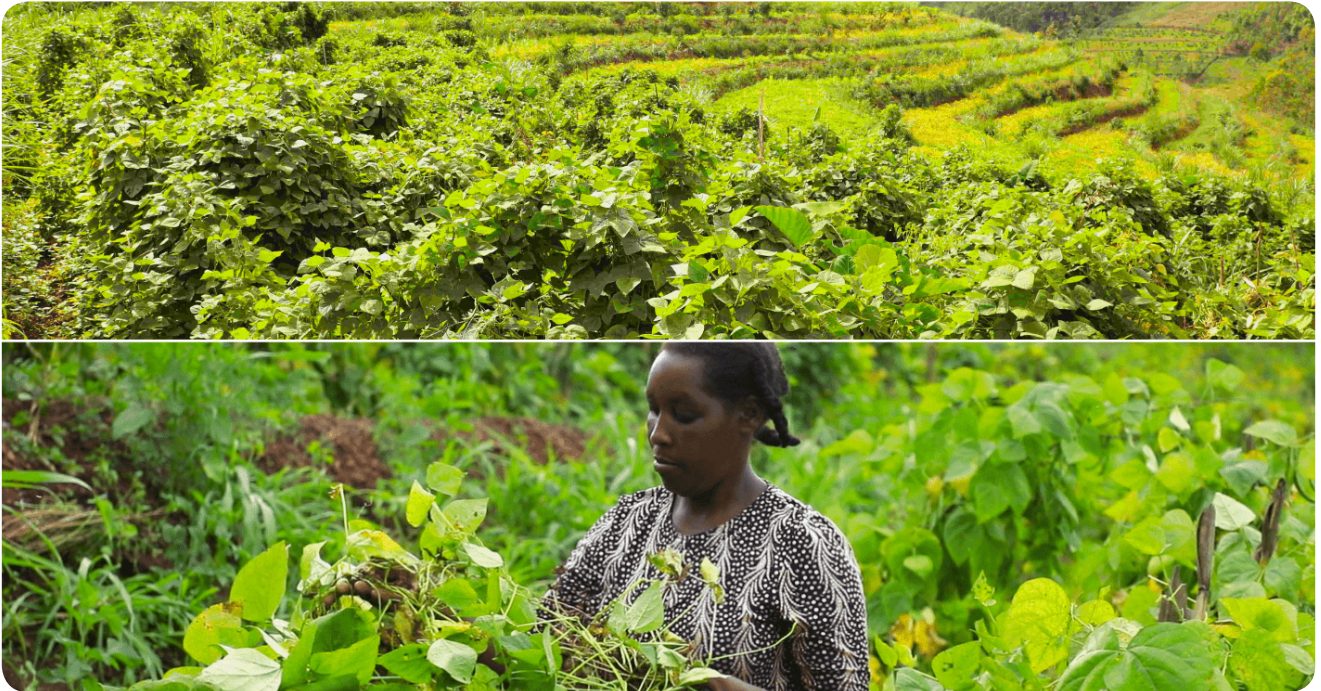
To deliver on these goals, the government has pledged to raise \$11 billion (\$5.7 billion for mitigation and \$5.3 billion for adaptation measures) for full implementation of the NDC (by 2030).

Kabera said that the government is committed to mobilising domestic financial resources of around \$4.1 billion while the remaining \$6.9 billion is required from the international community.

To achieve its conditional target, Rwanda intends to use different climate finance sources including international carbon market mechanisms and cooperative approaches under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.



What you did here is so impressive - UK Minister of State for Development and Africa after his visit to Nyandungu Eco Park



Dina Mukarusanga is among many other LDCF3 Project beneficiaries who were at first hesitant about terrace farming

The beneficiaries of the Ecosystem/Landscape Approach to Climate Proof the Rural Settlement Programme of Rwanda, also known as LDCF3 Project, who initially hesitated to adopt terrace farming have now passionately embraced the practice after recognizing its numerous agricultural benefits.

The LDCF3 Project, from its inception, faced resistance from beneficiaries who were skeptical about the viability of terrace farming. Concerns ranged from the perceived complexities of terrace construction to doubts about the economic returns and practicality of maintaining such structures over time.

The turning point in the adoption of terrace farming came with the implementation of comprehensive educational initiatives and awareness campaigns by the LDCF3 Project. Workshops, training sessions, and field demonstrations were organized to dispel misconceptions and provide hands-on experience, showcasing the tangible benefits of terrace farming.

"I never imagined that terrace farming could make such a difference in our lives. At first, I was hesitant about this project, but now, witnessing

the agricultural benefits it brings, I can only express gratitude. Terrace farming has not only transformed our landscape but has also given us a sustainable and thriving source of livelihood. It's a testament to the power of innovation in agriculture, and I am truly thankful for the positive impact it has had on our community." Said Dina Mukarusanga, LDCF3 Project beneficiary in Kirehe District.

This shift in attitude not only marks a significant turning point for individual farmers, but also underscores the adaptability and resilience of communities in the face of change. Beneficiaries attest

that their agricultural production has doubled and/or tripled since the initiation of terrace farming.

Terrace farming has not only revitalized crop yields, it has also provided an unexpected benefit for livestock.

"The lush green terraces, once infertile slopes, now offer a rich source of nourishment for our animals. The carefully managed grass and vegetation on these terraces not only prevent soil erosion but have become a natural and nutritious grazing ground for our livestock. It's incredible to witness how terrace farming, initially aimed at im-



LDCF3 project beneficiaries attest that their agricultural production has doubled and/or tripled thanks to terrace farming

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proving crop cultivation, has also become a sustainable solution for enhancing the well-being of both our crops and livestock, fostering a harmonious balance in our agricultural practices." Said Jean Bizimana, LDCF3 Project in Kirehe District.

One of the key advantages that resonated with beneficiaries was the efficient use of available land through terrace farming. The tiered structure of terraces maximizes the use of sloping terrain, allowing farmers to cultivate more crops in limited space.

The LDCF3 Project emphasized the role of terraces in water conservation and soil health. Terraces help retain water, preventing runoff and allowing for better irrigation

practices. Additionally, the prevention of soil erosion on sloping lands became a compelling argument for the adoption of terrace farming among beneficiaries concerned about preserving the fertility of their fields.

As beneficiaries gradually embraced terrace farming, they witnessed a notable increase in agricultural productivity. The tiered structure allowed for better sunlight exposure and optimized growing conditions, resulting in improved yields. This positive outcome served as a powerful motivator for farmers to continue with terrace cultivation.

Overcoming their initial reluctance, beneficiaries discovered

the economic benefits associated with terrace farming. The diverse range of crops that can be cultivated on terraces not only contributes to food security but also opens up new avenues for income generation, enabling farmers to diversify their agricultural practices.

The LDCF3 Project is a five-year initiative that aims to climate-proof the rural settlements in Gakenke and Kirehe Districts by building communities' resilience to climate change. It is implemented by REMA in partnership with Rwanda Housing Authority, Meteo Rwanda and the Districts of Gakenke and Kirehe with support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Open Science Conference: Research findings to help advance climataction



5,000 cookstoves were distributed to the project beneficiaries in Gakenke and Kirehe Districts

Rwanda has from 23-27 October 2023 hosted the 2nd Open Science Conference of the World Climate Research Programme.

The conference brought together over 1,200 participants in Kigali to advance climate resilience in the Global South through scientific research.

At least 160 research findings,

aimed at enhancing climate resilience to extreme events, have been presented at the conference.

Some of the research focused on extreme weather events, climate projections, drought, environmental solutions, global warming, ocean warming, climate services and forecasts, heat waves, climate change impact on crop yields,

water scarcity, urban overheating impacts on human life, AI use in the early warning system, and machine learning-based early warning system for drought, among others.

Extreme weather-related events are often short-lived and include heat waves, freezes, heavy downpours, tornadoes, tropical cyclones and floods.

The conference was organised with a focus on three themes, namely; advances in climate research, climate services and solutions, and human interactions with climate.

Rwanda's Minister of Environment Dr. Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya, highlighted the importance of the one-in-a-decade international research conference in triggering decision making to tackle climate change issues.

"It is a testament to the power of

science, research and open dialogue in advancing our understanding of the global climate system. We have the opportunity to learn from one another, collaborate on new ideas, and collectively chart a course towards a more sustainable and resilient future"

The Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) in partnership with GIZ Rwanda organized a side event on Climate Change science and research in Rwanda, to highlight climate research conducted in Rwanda and how the

research impact climate policy formulation and drive Rwanda's climate action.

"This event represents a critical opportunity for scientists, researchers, policymakers and experts from various disciplines to come together, share their knowledge and insights and collaborate on finding evidence-based solutions to mitigate and adapt to climate change" said Juliet Kabera, Director General of the REMA at the side event.

Over 45 Professionals completed a capacity-building program in climate change analysis and reporting

The Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) in collaboration with the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences in Rwanda (AIMS_Rwanda), has on November 17, 2023 celebrated the graduation of over 45 professionals from public, private institutions as well as non-profit organizations who completed a capacity-building program in climate change analysis and reporting, known as "Evidence-Based Climate Reporting Initiative (ECRI)"

The ECRI, a 9-month program, was initiated by REMA and contracted to AIMS_Rwanda for professional training with the aim of advancing climate change reporting methodologies and research in Rwanda. The program commenced in February 2023, and the trainees have successfully completed three intensive courses, namely:

- Advanced Excel for Data Analysis
- Climate Modeling using Mathematical Models and
- Mathematical Models for National Greenhouse Gases (GHG) Inventory and Projection

Dr. Lamek Nahayo, an ECRI graduate, expressed the graduates' commitment to applying their skills to benefit communities. "We promise that the skills we gained will not fall in vain. We will use them to help our communities," He affirmed

Prof. Dr. Yala, AIMS Network president, conveyed his trust in the ECRI graduates during his welcome remarks.



Ndora Sector in Gisagara District won Green Amayaga Football Competition

REMA's Deputy Director General, Faustin Munyazikwiye, highlighted the program's positive impact on Rwanda's climate actions

"As Rwanda strives towards becoming a low carbon and climate resilient economy by 2050, I have no doubt that your contribution will be invaluable. I urge you to continue to pursue excellence in your work and I have confidence that you will make a meaningful difference" Munyazikwiye said

"The manner in which ECRI was implemented is certainly a commendable approach that enables employees to maintain their professional commitments while improving their skills" He added

The graduation was officiated by the Permanent Secretary in the Min-

istry of Environment, Patrick Karera who acknowledged the program and congratulated the graduates.

"I would like to thank and congratulate the graduates for their dedication and hard work throughout this program. Your achievements will contribute to policy development and enhance your day-to-day work" He stated

In a strategic move towards long-term collaboration, REMA and AIMS signed a 5-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to build capacity in climate change research.

The MoU includes a one-year professional services contract focusing on conducting capacity-building activities on climate change reporting methodologies.