



Rwanda

From Post-Conflict to Environmentally
Sustainable Development

United Nations Environment Programme

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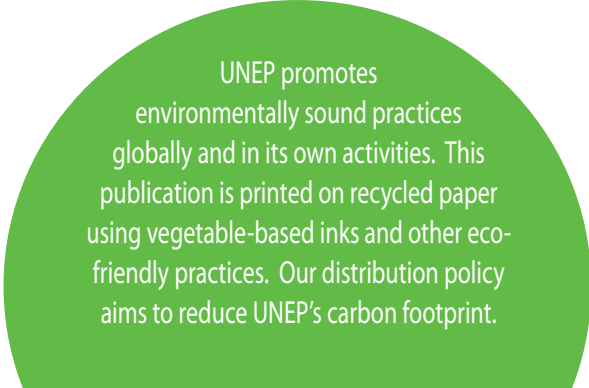
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Table of contents

Foreword	6
Chapter 1: Introduction	10
1.1 Background.....	12
1.2 Goal and objectives	14
1.3 Linkages to UN and national planning processes.....	14
1.4 Report structure	14
Chapter 2: Country Context	16
2.1 Introduction.....	18
2.2 Geography	20
2.3 Climate	24
2.4 Biodiversity	27
2.5 Key ecological regions	28
2.6 Society	34
2.7 Governance	43
2.8 Economy.....	45
2.9 Development vision	45
Chapter 3: Assessment Process	46
3.1 Introduction.....	48
3.2 Target audience	48
3.3 Assessment approach	48
3.4 Equipment used	56
3.5 Laboratory analysis.....	57
3.6 Limitations and constraints	57
Chapter 4: Conflict, Peacebuilding and the Environment	60
4.1 Introduction.....	62
4.2 Assessment activities.....	62
4.3 Governance	63
4.4 Overview of key issues.....	64
4.5 Conclusions	71
4.6 Recommendations.....	71
Chapter 5: Population Displacement, Resettlement and the Environment	72
5.1 Introduction.....	74
5.2 Assessment activities.....	75
5.3 Overview of population displacement in Rwanda.....	75
5.4 Overview of resettlement.....	78
5.5 Governance	80
5.6 Overview of environmental issues related to population displacement and resettlement	81
5.7 Conclusions	96
5.8 Recommendations.....	96
Chapter 6: Disasters and Climate Change	98
6.1 Introduction.....	100
6.2 Assessment activities.....	100
6.3 Overview of disasters and climate change in Rwanda	101
6.4 Governance	109

6.5	Overview of key issues.....	109
6.6	Conclusions	114
6.7	Recommendations.....	114
Chapter 7: Agriculture and Land Degradation		118
7.1	Introduction.....	120
7.2	Assessment activities.....	120
7.3	Overview of the agriculture sector	122
7.4	Governance.....	129
7.5	Overview of key issues.....	132
7.6	Conclusions	146
7.7	Recommendations.....	146
Chapter 8: Forest Resources		148
8.1	Introduction.....	150
8.2	Assessment activities.....	150
8.3	Overview of the forestry sector	151
8.4	Governance.....	163
8.5	Overview of key issues.....	163
8.6	Conclusions	170
8.7	Recommendations.....	170
Chapter 9: Water Resources		172
9.1	Introduction.....	174
9.2	Assessment activities.....	174
9.3	Overview of freshwater resources in Rwanda	175
9.4	Overview of water consumption.....	179
9.5	Governance.....	183
9.6	Overview of key issues.....	184
9.7	Expanding regional cooperation	196
9.8	Conclusions	198
9.9	Recommendations.....	199
Chapter 10: Wildlife and Protected Area Management		200
10.1	Introduction.....	202
10.2	Assessment activities.....	202
10.3	Overview of wildlife and protected areas	203
10.4	Governance.....	212
10.5	Overview of key issues.....	213
10.6	Conclusions	222
10.7	Recommendations.....	222
Chapter 11: Energy and the Environment		224
11.1	Introduction.....	226
11.2	Assessment activities.....	226
11.3	Overview of the energy sector.....	227
11.4	Energy sources.....	229
11.5	Energy consumption	234
11.6	Governance.....	235
11.7	Overview of key issues.....	237
11.8	Conclusions	247
11.9	Recommendations.....	248

Chapter 12: Urban Environment and Health Issues	250
12.1 Introduction.....	252
12.2 Assessment activities.....	252
12.3 Overview of demographics and major urban centres.....	253
12.4 Governance	256
12.5 Overview of key issues.....	259
12.6 Conclusions	273
12.7 Recommendations.....	273
Chapter 13: Industry and Mining	276
13.1 Introduction.....	278
13.2 Assessment activities.....	278
13.3 Overview of the industrial and mining sectors.....	279
13.4 Key industries.....	280
13.5 Mining.....	284
13.6 Governance	287
13.7 Overview of key issues.....	288
13.8 Environmental issues specific to industry.....	289
13.9 Environmental issues specific to mining	291
13.10 Conclusions	295
13.11 Recommendations.....	295
Chapter 14: Environmental Governance	300
14.1 Introduction.....	302
14.2 Assessment activities.....	302
14.3 Overview of environmental governance.....	302
14.4 Overview of key issues in environmental governance.....	306
14.5 Conclusions	310
14.6 Recommendations.....	312
Chapter 15: Conclusions and Recommendations	316
15.1 Introduction.....	318
15.2 Main findings.....	318
15.3 Recommendations.....	321
15.4 Implementation and financing of the recommendations.....	322
15.5 The way forward.....	322
Appendices	
Appendix 1: List of Acronyms and Abbreviations.....	330
Appendix 2: List of References	335
Appendix 3: Endnotes.....	354
Appendix 4: GIS Soil Erosion Model.....	367
Appendix 5: Sampling Results.....	369
Appendix 6: Soil Erosion Rates by Districts	372
Appendix 7: List of Contributors	373

Foreword

Rwanda's rebirth from the tragic events of 1994 is an exceptional post-conflict success story. The country has made impressive strides on many fronts, from securing internal stability to enjoying strong economic growth. Looking forward, Rwanda has enthusiastically embarked on a profoundly transformative path that has the potential to spearhead a new economic development model for Africa.

The government's development blueprint, Vision 2020, aspires to propel Rwanda into a middle-income country within a single generation. High goals have been set to increase the GDP seven-fold, quadruple annual per capita income, create alternative jobs for half of Rwanda's subsistence farmers, boost private investment, market competitive export products and turn the country into a high-tech service hub for East Africa – all by 2020. Significant progress has been made so far in delivering on this strategy, which is closely aligned with the Millennium Development Goals to lift people out of poverty, increase literacy and promote access to potable water.

In parallel, a solid framework for environmental governance has been established, reflecting high-level awareness of the linkages between improved management of environmental assets, development and prosperity. It is in recognition of this environmental leadership that Rwanda was chosen as the host country for World Environment Day 2010.

Fast-paced development, however, also carries a number of risks in terms of social and environmental impacts. The recommendations of this multi-disciplinary assessment aim to provide the scientific



The report also highlights the strategic importance of regional environmental cooperation to mobilize such major investments. This will not only help deliver the targets of Vision 2020, but importantly showcase how a sustainable and prosperous economy can be achieved.

This assessment was made possible through the cooperation of the Rwanda Environmental Management Authority, under the overall leadership of the Ministry of Natural Resources. It was implemented within the framework of the Rwanda One UN pilot, in collaboration with the UN Country Team and United Nations Development Programme, in particular, which provided administrative support. Finally, I wish to sincerely thank the Government of Sweden for its generous financial assistance and for its long-standing commitment to UNEP's post-conflict work.

UNEP looks forward to a continued partnership with the Government of Rwanda as it lays the foundations for an environmentally sustainable future aimed at improving the well-being of its people.

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