

Rwanda
***Technical Assistance Mission on Strengthening Natural Capital Accounting
Institutionalization and Policy Formulation in Rwanda (P169151)***
(March 11 - 15, 2024)

Aide Memoire

I. Introduction

1. From March 11th to 15th a World Bank team conducted a mission (hereafter referred to as mission) focused on advancing the remaining tasks under the technical assistance (TA) on Natural Capital Accounting (NCA)—informing the Volcanoes Community Resilience Project (VCRP) component that includes opportunities for Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES). In December 2023, the Government of Rwanda (GoR) requested an extension to the closing date of the NCA TA to June 30, 2024, and requested that the TA also help address the institutionalization of NCA.

2. This Aide-Memoire summarizes the main findings of the mission and the agreed actions and timeline. The team wishes to thank the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN), Ministry of Environment (MoE), National Institute of Statistics for Rwanda (NISR), Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB), National Land Authority (NLA), Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA), Rwanda Forestry Authority (RFA) and Water & Sanitation Corporation Group (WASAC Group) for the rich discussions during the in-person and hybrid meetings and for their continued collaboration in the implementation of the TA support and courtesies extended to the Bank Team during the mission. The list of people met during the mission and mission team members is listed in [Annex 1](#).

II. Key Findings and Points of Agreement

(i) Institutionalization of NCA:

3. In response to the GoR's request to help institutionalize NCA, the World Bank team will conduct a rapid assessment of policies, data availability and institutional capacity to use NCA to inform selected policies, plans, and macro-economic modeling. The rapid assessment will provide a strong basis on which the GoR will develop a more comprehensive roadmap for institutionalizing NCA.

4. The National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR) confirmed their support to institutionalize NCA and advised on the following actions:

- a. The mission to provide clarity on the policies that would be informed with NCA.
- b. Ensure that the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) responsible for data collection to generate relevant NCAs commit to incorporating the collection and compilation of relevant data into their Annual Action Plans (AAP).
- c. Provide details on the policies to be informed and the NCAs to be updated.
- d. Both the commitments by the MDAs mentioned in point b and the policies and NCAs mentioned in point c are to be included in the Fourth National Strategy for the

Development of Statistics (NSDS4). The mission noted that the information should be provided by the MDAs to NISR by mid-May and that the MoE and NISR may discuss to agree on final date.

5. Based on the preliminary findings (see [Annex 2](#)), the mission recommends focusing on one or more of three opportunities to use NCA to inform:
 - a. Land use planning and SDG 15,
 - b. National Water Master Plan and SDG 6,
 - c. Integrating environmental variables into the CGE models developed in MINECOFIN, potentially focusing on climate change-related variables.
6. Focal points for the MDAs met during the missions were identified (see names bolded in [Annex 1](#)).

Agreed Next Steps

- MoE will select options for the focus of the rapid assessment by April 5th.
- The team will do a review of main policy documents relevant to the chosen focus areas and contact the appointed focal points as needed to gather necessary information.
- A draft report will be sent to GoR 5 weeks after the selection of options for the focus of the rapid assessment.
- MoE will propose dates for convening relevant agencies for a hybrid workshop in May to present the rapid assessment and discuss what would be feasible to include in the NSDS4.
- When the date is agreed, the agenda and venue will be determined noting remaining budget in the NCA TA.

(ii) Informing VCRP component on PES options

7. It was agreed during a call in February between MoE and the World Bank team that the work on PES to inform VCRP can proceed and will be started during the latter part of March. The Bank NCA team proposed two potential candidates from the Government team working on VCRP as focal person. MoE noted that more than one focal point may be needed for this work to ensure inclusion of a government focal person who can consider the PES issue beyond the VCRP landscapes.

Agreed Next Steps

- MoE will nominate the focal point(s) with whom the work on informing the VCRP component that includes PES activities would be coordinated.

III. Agreed Timeline for Next Steps

The table below summarizes the agreed key next steps for the next four months and the agreed responsibilities and timelines.

	Action	Responsible Entity	Completed by
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i.	Select options for the focus of the rapid assessment	MoE	April 5 th
ii.	Confirm last date for submission to the NSDS4	NISR	April 5 th
iii.	Confirm dates for stakeholder workshop	MoE	April 5 th
iv.	Nominate focal person for PES	MoE	April 5 th
v.	Share rapid assessment report outline	WB	+ 1 week after (i)
vi.	Share draft rapid assessment report	WB	+ 5 weeks after (i)
vii.	Convene key MDAs for workshop	GoR	May, date tbc (see iii)
viii.	Finalize rapid assessment report	WB	+ 4 weeks after (vii)

Annex 1: List of Persons Met during the Mission and Mission Participants

Government of Rwanda

No	Names	Position	Institution	Contact	Focal point
1	Mr. Bernard Segatagara Musana	Head of Knowledge and Forecasting Hub Department	Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB)	bernard.musana@rwb.rw	
2	Mr. Alsaad NDAYIZEYE	River Flood Control Specialist/TWG	Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB)	alsaad.ndayizeye@rwb.rw	X
3	Hon. Dr. Claudine Uwera	Minister of State	Ministry of Environment (MoE)	cuwera@gov.rw	
4	Mr. Yusuf Murangwa	Director General	National Institute of Statistics for Rwanda (NISR)	yusuf.murangwa@statistics.gov.rw	
5	Mr. Frank Rutehenda	Advisor to Minister of State	Ministry of Environment (MoE)	mosadvisor@environment.gov.rw	X
6	Ms. Juliet Kabera	Director General	Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA)	jkabera@rema.gov.rw	
7	Ms. Grace Nishimwe	Director General	National Land Authority (NLA)	Grace.Nishimwe@lands.rw	
8	Mr. Faustin Munyazikwiye	Deputy Director General	Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA)	fmunyazikwiye@rema.gov.rw	X

9	Ms. Olive Byukusenge	GHG Inventory Officer	Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA)	obyukusenge@rema.gov.rw	X
10	Mr. Sam Biraro	Advisor to the Director General and External Affairs	National Land Authority (NLA)	Sam.Biraro@lands.rw	X
11	Dr. Ivan Gasangwa	Forestry Research Division Manager	Rwanda Forestry Authority (RFA)	ivan.gasangwa@rfa.rw or gasavan02@gmail.com	X
12	Mr. Fred Sabiti	Technical Advisor to MINECOFIN on Environment and Climate Change	Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN)	fred.sabiti@minecofin.gov.rw	X
13	Mr. Arend C. Kouwenaar (IMF)	IMF Expert, supporting Macro Policy Modeling Department, MINECOFIN	Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN)	arinorooa@comcast.net	X
14	Mr. Ivan Murenzi	Deputy Director General	National Institute of Statistics for Rwanda (NISR)	ivan.murenzi@statistics.gov.rw	X
15	Mr. Jean Claude MWIZERWA	Director of Economic Statistics	National Institute of Statistics for Rwanda (NISR)	claudio.mwizerwa@statistics.gov.rw	
16	Mr. Jean Claude Nyirimanzi	Director of Research and Methodologies	National Institute of Statistics for Rwanda (NISR)	claudio.nyirimanzi@statistics.gov.rw	X
17	Mr. Benon Kaka	Director of Planning, M&E	Ministry of Environment (MoE)	Bkaka@environment.gov.rw	
18	Prof. Omar Munyaneza	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	Water and Sanitation Corporation Group Ltd (WASAC Group Ltd)	omunyaneza@wasac.rw	

19	Ms. Gisele Umuhumuza	Managing Director	Water and Sanitation Corporation (WASAC Utility)	Gumuhumuza@wasac.rw	X
20	Eng. Dominique Murekezi	Ag. Managing Director	Water and Sanitation Development (WASAC Development)	Dmurekezi@wasac.rw	
21	Mr. Samson Hategekimana	Corporate Planning Manager	Water and Sanitation Group	Shategekimana@wasac.rw	X

World Bank

1. Diji Chandrasekharan Behr, Lead Environmental Economist (TTL)
2. Yacob Wondimkun Endaylalu, Senior Environmental Engineer
3. Emanuela Migliaccio, Young Professional
4. Sofia Elisabet Ahlroth, Senior Environmental Economist, Consultant
5. Michael Vardon, Professor and Senior Consultant
6. Peter Katanisa, Consultant
7. Sylvie Noella Umwere, Team Assistant

Annex 2 Summary of preliminary findings.

1. Opportunities for NCA to inform specific plans, reporting requirements, modeling efforts:
 - National Strategy for Transformation (NST 2)
 - SDG reporting
 - State of Environment Report
 - New Water Master Plan
 - Forest Sector Strategic Plan (2025-2030)
 - Input to models Rural planning (under national development)
 - CGE model (MANAGE) and water management model (WEAP)
 - Other new policies and plans
 - Climate change: NDCs etc.
 - Payments for ES – site prioritization and measurement of services
2. NCAs that would be best placed to update/develop based on data availability and line agency interest:
 - a. Land accounts
 - b. Water accounts
 - c. Forest accounts
 - d. GHG accounts
3. Proposed structure of assessment report:
 - Policies/reporting to be informed
 - Governance
 - Prioritization of accounts
 - Production
 - data providers, accounts compilation, dissemination
 - Applications
 - recipients of the accounts data identified along with format of data needed, timeline for data delivery (i.e. reporting schedules)