Integrating BIODIVERSITY into Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS) in RWANDA
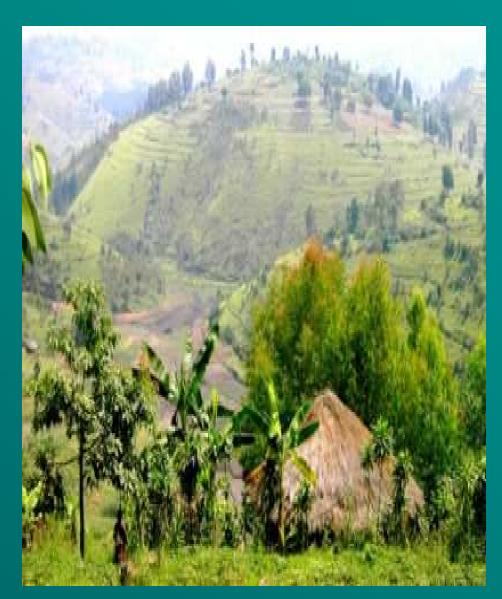
Rwanda Poverty Environment Initiative (PEI)

Typical features in Rwanda

- Surface : 26388 km2

- Population : 8 Mos

- 90 % of the population depends directly on natural resources

- Development plans based on Vision 2020 and MDGs

- 2006 – 2007: Review and update of the national poverty reduction strategy paper (EDPRS)

Objectives

- to enhance the contribution of sound environmental management to national development strategies EDPRS (2008 – 2012), (MDG's, 2015) and Vision 2020

- to increase national budget allocations towards the environment;

- to build the long-term capacity of the government to integrate environment into the design and implementation of development plans

Overall Approach

- **Conduct studies to generate evidence based advocacy tools**:
  - Economic Analysis of the Cost of Environmental Degradation
  - Pilot Integrated Ecosystem Assessment
- **Media strategy:** Radio programmes
- **Support to EDPRS**
  - Guidelines to support Sector and Cross-cutting Group
  - Monitoring and Evaluation tools (Key Performance Indicators (KPIs))
- **Phase II preparation**
  - EDPRS implementation & Capacity Building Phase

Results

- Policy advocacy tools
- Enhanced knowledge base on environmental issues
- Improved understanding of environmental sustainability as a key component to national development
- Integration of environmental sustainability into EDPRS
- Significant and sustainable increase in national budget for environment and natural resources

Progress

- Studies have provided evidence for environmental sustainability
- Sector guidelines - used to guide logframe development to integrate environmental issues
- Increased donor support – Environment featured among five areas selected under United Nations Dev. Assist. Framework (UNDAF). Rwanda 1 of 8 pilot countries.
- 2 out of 3 High level objectives on environment priorities in EDPRS focus on BIODIVERSITY

Progress on Biodiversity Front

- ◆ Protected Areas (PA) and Wetlands
  - Identified for protection as one of the major contributors to national revenue
  - Biodiversity is an indirect Key Performance Indicator (KPI) in EDPRS
    - ◆ *Increase in PA from 8% to 10%*
  - A measure of progress on national investment towards environment sustainability
  - Priority ecosystems (Gishwati and Mukura Forests, Rugezi, Kamiranzovu, Nyabarongo – Akagera network wetlands) are planned for rehabilitation for their Biodiversity value.

Problems/Challenges

◆ Costing the Environment Sector is still a challenge – no appropriate model incl. Biodiversity

◆ Generating inventory of species especially endangered.

◆ Need for capacity to work with the sectors in mainstreaming environment especially Biodiversity

Lessons Learned

- Planning Phase – strong involvement of national stakeholders Data

- Field based studies recognized as a effective advocacy tool for environmental sustainability & Biodiversity protection

Merci pour votre Aimable Attention