



# Protected area information:

---

**PoWPA Focal Point:** (Francois Bizimungu-Rwanda Development Board)

**Lead implementing agency:** (Rwanda Development Board/Tourism and Conservation)

**Multi-stakeholder committee:** (Add description)

# Description of protected area system

---

## National Targets and Vision for Protected Areas

(Insert national targets for protected areas/Target 11 of the Aichi Targets. Include rationale from protected area gap assessment, if completed, along with any additional information about the vision for the protected area system, including statements about the value of the protected area system to the country)

## Coverage

(9.99%)

## Description and background

### Biodiversity and genetic resources

Although Rwanda is a small country (26,338 km<sup>2</sup>), it is rich in biodiversity, which is mainly conserved in protected areas (three national parks, natural forests, wetlands) covering almost 10 per cent of the national territory. The country's location at the heart of the Albertine Rift eco-region in the western arm of the Africa's Rift Valley, makes it home to 40 per cent of the continent's mammal species (402 species). There is a huge diversity of birds (1,061 species), reptiles and amphibians (293) species, and higher plants (5,793 species). Rwanda is also recognized as a biodiversity hotspot, hosting more endemic mammals, birds, butterflies, fish and amphibians than anywhere else in Africa.

Although it is acknowledged that a multitude of benefits accrue to Rwandese from the country's biodiversity and genetic resources, there is no hard assessment of the value of high value biodiversity and the costs and benefits of protecting it.

## Governance types

- National Parks
- Natural Forest reserves
- Protected wetlands

## Key threats

- Poaching (illegal PA resource uses)
- Agriculture/encroachment
- Climate change

## Barriers for effective implementation

Lack of clear institutional and policy framework (governance types, etc)

Lack of complete valuation assessments

# Status, priority and timeline for key actions of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas

---

## Status of key actions of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas

Status of key actions of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas	Status
• Progress on assessing <b>gaps in the protected area network</b> (1.1)	0
• Progress in assessing <b>protected area integration</b> (1.2)	0
• Progress in establishing <b>transboundary protected areas and regional networks</b> (1.3)	2
• Progress in developing <b>site-level management plans</b> (1.4)	3
• Progress in assessing <b>threats</b> and opportunities for <b>restoration</b> (1.5)	2
• Progress in assessing <b>equitable sharing</b> of benefits (2.1)	2
• Progress in assessing protected area <b>governance</b> (2.1)	2
• Progress in assessing the <b>participation</b> of indigenous and local communities in key protected area decisions (2.2)	3
• Progress in assessing the <b>policy environment</b> for establishing and managing protected areas (3.1)	2
• Progress in assessing the <b>values</b> of protected areas (3.1)	2
• Progress in assessing protected area <b>capacity</b> needs (3.2)	4
• Progress in assessing the <b>appropriate technology</b> needs (3.3)	2
• Progress in assessing protected area <b>sustainable finance</b> needs (3.4)	2

• Progress in conducting <b>public awareness</b> campaigns (3.5)	2
• Progress in developing <b>best practices and minimum standards</b> (4.1)	3
• Progress in assessing <b>management effectiveness</b> (4.2)	2
• Progress in establishing an <b>effective PA monitoring system</b> (4.3)	2
• Progress in developing a <b>research program</b> for protected areas (4.4)	2
• Progress in assessing opportunities for <b>marine</b> protection	0
• Progress in incorporating <b>climate change</b> aspects into protected areas	2

Status: 0 = no work, 1 = just started, 2 = partially complete, 3 = nearly complete, 4 = complete  
(Insert notes as appropriate)

## Priority actions for fully implementing the Programme of Work on Protected Areas:

Action	Priority	Timeline	Indicative Budget
Protected areas network institutionalized and effectively managed	VH	2017	11,300,000 USD
Diversification of governance types and recognition through acknowledgement in national legislation and other formal means	VH	2015	5,000,000 USD
Development and implementation of sustainable finance plans for protected area systems.	H	2015	800,000 USD
Assessing the values and contribution of protected areas to the national and local economies	VH	2014	1,000,000 USD
Integration of protected areas into wider land use and economic sectors to showcase mainstreaming of biodiversity with other sectors.	H	2015	1,000,000 USD

**Priority for completion:** VH (very high); H (high); M (medium); L (low); c **Timeline:** (e.g., 2012, 2013, 2014)

## Action Plans for completing priority actions of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas

### Action 1: Protected areas network institutionalized and effectively managed

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget (US \$)
Assessing gaps in the protected area network	2013	RDB/REMA/RNRA	100,000 USD
Assessing protected area integration	2013	RDB/REMA/RNRA	100,000 USD
Improving the representativeness of the protected area network	2015	RDB/REMA/RNRA	5,000,000 USD
Restoring degraded protected areas and establishing ecological corridors	2015	RDB/REMA/RNRA	5,000,000 USD
Improving protected area management effectiveness	2017	RDB/REMA/RNRA	-
Strengthening protected area capacity	2014	RDB/REMA/RNRA	1,000,000 USD
Improving the equitable distribution of protected area benefits	2015	RDB/REMA/RNRA	-
Monitoring and reporting on progress toward management effectiveness	2015	RDB/REMA/RNRA	100,000 USD

### Action 2: Diversification of governance types and recognition through acknowledgement in national legislation and other formal means

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget (US \$)
Create new protected areas with innovative forms of governance, such as community conserved areas	2014	RDB, REMA, RNRB, MINELA	4,000,000 USD
Improving protected area policies	2013	RDB/REMA/RNRA/MINELA	500,000 USD
improving protected area governance	2015	RDB/REMA/RNRA/MINELA	500,000 USD

**Action 3: Development and implementation of sustainable finance plans for protected area systems.**

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget (US \$)
Assessing protected area sustainable finance needs	2015	RDB/REMA/ RNRA/MINELA/MINICOM	200,000 USD
Developing protected area business plan or plans	2015	RDB/REMA/RNRA	500,000 USD
Developing new protected area funding mechanisms	2015	RDB/REMA/RNRA	100,000 USD

**Action 4: Assessing the values and contribution of protected areas to the national and local economies**

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget (US \$)
Assessing the values of protected areas	2015	RDB/REMA/ RNRA/ MINELA/ MINICOM	200,000 USD
Create finance mechanisms linked to protected area values (e.g., payment for ecosystem services)	2017	RDB/REMA/RNRA	200,000 USD
Develop and apply policies for access and benefit sharing	2015	RDB/REMA/RNRA/ MINELA/MINICOM	200,000 USD
Improve mechanisms for participation of local communities	2015	RDB/REMA/RNRA	200,000 USD
Assess opportunities for local community participation in key protected area management	2014	RDB/REMA/RNRA	200,000 USD

**Action 5: Integration of protected areas into wider land use and economic sectors to showcase mainstreaming of biodiversity with other sectors**

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget (US \$)
Integrate protected areas into poverty reduction strategies	2014	RDB/REMA/RNRB/MINELA	200,000 USD
assess land use planning, zoning and buffers in key connectivity areas	2015	RDB/RNRA/RAB/MINELA	300,000 USD
Harmonize sectorial policies or laws to strengthen protected areas management effectiveness	2015	RDB/REMA/RNRA/MINELA	200,000 USD
Integrate PA values and ecological services into the national economy	2015	RDB/REMA/RNRA	

Develop incentive mechanisms for private protected areas	2015	RDB/REMA/RNRA/PSF	300,000 USD
--	------	-------------------	-------------

## **Acronyms**

RDB: RWANDA DEVELOPMENT BOAD

REMA: RWANDA ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

RNRA: RWANDA NATURAL RESOURCES AUTHORITY

MINELA: MINISTRY NATURAL RESOURCES

MINICOM: MINISTRY OF COMMERCE



Key assessment results

**Ecological gap assessment** (insert summary findings if available)

**Management effectiveness assessment** (Insert summary findings if available)

**Sustainable finance assessment** (Insert summary findings if available)

**Capacity needs assessment** (Insert summary findings if available)

**Policy environment assessment** (Insert summary findings if available)

**Protected area integration and mainstreaming assessment** (Insert summary findings if available)

**Protected area valuation assessment** (Insert summary findings if available)

**Climate change resilience and adaptation assessment** (Insert summary findings if available)

(Insert other assessment results if available)