

GGGI Rwanda: Fact Sheet

Climate Resilient Green Cities

Challenges

Rwanda has a current urbanization rate of 4.1% with 17% of the population living in urban areas. Rwanda's urban population has increased from 500,00 in 1995 to 3.5 million in 2018. The Government of Rwanda has a target urbanization rate of 35% and has focused on the development of six secondary cities (Huye, Muhanga, Musanze, Nyagatare, Rubavu, Rusizi) to achieve this goal. Rwanda has an economic growth rate of 5% per capita and is the second most densely populated country in Africa. As a result, the development of cities has the potential to result in increased wages as well as improved access to sustainable services, energy, and housing.

The challenge is to ensure that the growth is achieved sustainably, with an emphasis on environmental outcomes and climate change mitigation while continuing economic growth. As a result, green growth principles and approaches are being used to address:

- Informal and underdeveloped infrastructure
- Lack of access to electricity and limited generation capacity
- Housing shortages and lack of access to sustainable services, particularly in informal settlements

Approach

Recognizing that cities are both drivers of energy consumption and central to the country's development, the Government of Rwanda (GoR) has developed the Second Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy II 2013-2018 (EDPRS2) in the area of green urbanization. GGGI is supporting the implementation of the strategy by supporting the six secondary cities across five pillars that

form the basis of the Green Secondary Cities Development Framework Guidelines: 1) Energy and energy efficiency, 2) urban mobility, 3) land use, 4) water and sanitation, and 5) solid waste management.

GGGI Rwanda has focused its strategic interventions to support the government in achieving its aspirations for green economic development, poverty reduction, environment protection and an inclusive society. The GGGI Rwanda Country Planning Framework for the period of 2015-2020 (CPF 2015/20) is built on three interwoven, outcomes of:

- Urbanization of Rwanda guided by green growth principles
- The prioritization of resource-efficient, low-carbon technologies and infrastructure solutions into urban development projects
- Sustainable financial instruments to support green growth projects

Activities

To achieve these outcomes, GGGI works closely within the Urbanization and Human Settlement Sector Working Group of the GoR, which brings together governmental stakeholders and development partners to coordinate and align efforts toward collective action to achieve the SDGs. As an intergovernmental organization, GGGI also has full-time staff embedded in various ministries, agencies, and the six secondary cities to provide technical assistance and support to integrate green growth principles and initiatives. Current activities include:

- Urbanization sector action plans and District Development Plans reviewed to integrate key actions and recommendations from the National Roadmap

- GGGI and the Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS) cooperative agreement to support the GoR in the implementation of its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Paris Agreement and for sustainable urban wetland management
- Green City Pilot Project in Kigali
- Greening of the Bugesera Airport
- Public Bicycle Sharing (PBS) Project in secondary cities
- Surveys and participatory workshops conducted on the design of green and public spaces in secondary cities
- Technical support to the Rwanda National Fund for Environment and Climate Change (FONERWA) Facility and funding of green projects in the areas of mini-grid facilities and support for smallholder tea producers

Overall Goals

Facilitate broad-based, inclusive, economic growth and sustainable development by providing technical assistance for the implementation of the EDPRS 2 and support the achievement of six strategic outcomes:

- Strategic Outcome 1: GHG emissions reduction
- Strategic Outcome 2: Creation of green jobs
- Strategic Outcome 3: Increased access to electricity, improved sanitation, waste management services, and public transportation
- Strategic Outcome 4: Improved air quality
- Strategic Outcome 5: Adequate supply of ecosystems ensured. Enhancing and protecting ecosystem services in urban areas
- Strategic Outcome 6: Enhanced adaptation to climate change



Green City Development

Plan green cities that are compact, connected, and coordinated.



Land Use

Improve food security, create sustainable jobs, and introduce innovative technology for better resource efficiency and productivity



Energy

Drive economic growth, meet growing demand, reduce energy poverty, and address future climate risk.



Water

Encouraging water-related innovation and investment in green urban infrastructure

Implementing Partners

- Ministry of Infrastructure (MININFRA)
- Ministry of Environment (MoE)
- Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA)
- Rwanda Housing Authority (RHA)
- UN Habitat
- UN Environment

Results to Date

- Development of a National Road Map in collaboration with MININFRA to support climate resilient cities (adopted by the GoR in 2016).
- Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions as part of the initiative for Secondary Cities for Green City Development Capacity Building to train senior level technicians on green growth principles.
- Development of District Development Strategies (DDS).
- Capacity building for sector experts in climate finance and accessing capital for implementation of projects.
- Technical assistance to Rwanda Housing Authority (RHA) to draft and establish the Rwanda Green Building Minimum Compliance Guidelines.
- Support to youth through the YouthConnekt Competition for green business ideas, climate change diplomacy training, and attendance at COP24 in Katowice, Poland.
- Increased public awareness of green growth through initiatives such as the Inclusive Cities Talk, Urban Cinema, and Urban Walks.