

Rwanda updates on WAVES Projects

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- **What environmental and ecosystem accounts have been developed or are under development in your country?**

In deep description, environmental and ecosystem accounts are fully embedded into the Natural Capital Accounting programme. This program started in Rwanda in 2015 with four accounts: Land accounts, Water accounts, Mineral account and Ecosystem accounts.

All those accounts are complementary to each other and aim to build national environmental statistic for Rwanda and promote sustainable development by ensuring that natural resources are mainstreamed into development planning and national economic accounts. NCA results help in policy and strategy formulation and reformulation as well reporting on SGD and other international agreements.

So far four accounts have been developed but not in its complete form as having a complete account need time, data, and experts in the specific field. Developed accounts are Land, water, mineral and ecosystem., Among them only water and land accounts first volume have been published but Mineral and ecosystem accounts first versions are on final stage of its publication is expected end of this year.

Tackling only ecosystem accounts, government of Rwanda under its key institutions such as Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) dealing with environment, has set key ecosystem services in priority for the first volume base on alarming issues, data availability, time and financial situation to undertake accounts in partnership with the World Bank team. In the meeting with the stakeholders, three key services were chosen:

1. Erosion control (turned or explained into soil fertility, soil erosion control, sediment retention and sediment exported to streams, water quality)
2. Water yield (Explained in annual water yield and season water yield (Quick flow= stormwater which is destructive as Rwanda does not have the capacity to harvest and store that stormwater then baseflow water = water available in the dry season or baseflow)
3. Climate regulation (explained in term of carbon storage)

For ecosystem accounts, stock and flow of above services and disservices were assessed in trend analysis from 1990 to 2015 to documents current and previous policies and strategies impacts on ecosystem services in the last 25 years.

- **What are your future objectives for development of accounts?**

The roadmap is still in its early stage when compared to other countries which have started the NCA program a long time ago like the Netherlands. or each initiated account, the NCA Rwanda aims to have each account full developed in future for better serving its purpose as well as starting new accounts such as emission accounts, Agriculture accounts, Biodiversity Conservation accounts, Forest account and others

- **What enabling conditions need to exist in order to achieve these objectives?**

For the case of Rwanda, we should say that most critical conditions needed are in place as the Government of Rwanda is committed to make the program sustainable. Add to that, the World Bank is still engaged in providing technical assistance (experts) to the government of Rwanda for its full

integration of NCA into another national programme (Institutionalisation). The most challenging conditions would be the need for more scientific (this goes in the same line as data availability,) works in the related field to generate key data for a further stage of accounts as well as well-trained local experts who will take a lead once world Bank stops its support.

- **If your country has not yet developed accounts, what are your plans and what needs to be in place to begin?**

Not applicable for Rwanda