

**RECOMMENDATIONS from the
GEF-Government of Rwanda National Dialogue Workshop,
Umubano Novotel Kigali-Rwanda, 24-26 February 2004**

The three-day Country Dialogue Workshop (24-26 February 2004) between the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Government of Rwanda was officially opened by HE the Minister of Lands, Environment, Forest, Water and Natural Resources, Ms. Drocella MUGOREWERA. The Minister of States in charge of Lands and Environment also attended the workshop. Participants came from Provinces, higher education institutions, civil society, as well as the private sector. The newly appointed Director General of the Rwanda Environment Management Authority, Senators of the Senate and Members of Parliament also attended the workshop. The UNDP Resident Representative, and representatives of the GEF secretariat and the World Bank made opening speeches and facilitators from the GEF secretariat, the GEF/UNDP, GEF/UNEP and the GEF/World Bank, also made presentations.

The workshop identified six major environment problems in Rwanda, which are listed as follow:

I. Environment related problems:

- Inbalance between population and natural resources management
- Land Degradation
- Soil Conservation
- Deforestation
- Energy Deficit
- Threats to Wetland Areas (Sedimentation of lakes and rivers, pollution, etc...)

The participants formulated following recommendations to integrate GEF activities into national environment and development strategies:

II. Recommendations:

A. Capacity building

1. Rwanda will very soon submit an official request for the National Capacity Needs Self Assessment (NCSA) for Global Environmental management grant. These will be done before June 2004. **Action: MINITERE and UNDP.**
2. Coordination between the National GEF Operational Focal Point, GEF Political Focal Point and the Focal Points for the Conventions at the level of the Ministry of Lands, Environment, Forestry, Water and Natural Resources. **Action: MINITERE**

3. Institutional capacity building for the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA): Environmental Impact, Inspection, Monitoring and Evaluation, Information...) **Action: MINITERE, UNDP and other donors**
4. Capacity building to integrate environmental policies and strategies into District Development Initiatives. (Educate, develop and sensitize the youth, women and students) **Action: MINITERE, MINEDUC (Education), MIGESPOC (Youth), MIGEPROFE (Gender) and MINALOC (Local Governance).**
5. Strengthening collaboration between civil society, private sector, donor community and Government. **Action: MINITERE, World Bank and other potential donors.**
6. Building synergies between different environmental conventions to encourage a fuller understanding of the linkages between the GEF and the conventions. **Action: MINITERE**
7. Putting in place a network of experts and scientists within Rwanda to provide innovative solutions for the identified problems. **Action: MINITERE/REMA**
8. Inform, train and sensitize the public at large on environmental legislation and the link between GEF funding of the global environmental activities and the creation of national and local environmental and developmental benefits. **Action: MINITERE**

B. Coordination mechanisms

1. Setting up a National GEF Committee in order to strengthen Rwanda's involvement in GEF Programmes and integrate GEF into Rwanda's sustainable development strategies. This will allow more coordination in development, prioritisation and analysis of GEF programmes and other national environmental and sustainable development programmes. Permanent members of this committee will come from ministries, the private sector and civil society (annex 1) **Action: MINITERE, by end April 2004.**
2. Creation of a data bank for all environment related projects funded by the GEF and other donors. This information will be gathered by the Central Project and External Finance Bureau (CEPEX) see (annex 2) **Action: MINITERE, by end April 2004.**
3. MINITERE will take the lead in setting up an environmental cluster to develop the dialogue between the donors and the Government vis a vis the environment. **Action: MINITERE will prepare a letter to MINECOFIN asking the creation of an environment cluster. Before end of May 2004**

4. Set up a sector-platform for discussion and exchange on issues related to national fragile ecosystems under threat. **Action: MINITERE/REMA, by end April 2004.**

C. The GEF/Small Grant Programme

The GEF small grant programme was officially launched during the CDW workshop. It was recommended that the programme be implemented quickly in order to allow Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and civil society to initiate viable and eligible micro finance projects (small grant programmes) that can access SGP funds. The programme will include training workshops to reinforce NGOs and CBOs in the capacity to design GEF/SGP project proposals. **Action: UNDP/SGP-GEF.**

D. GEF and the Private Sector;

The participants also recommended:

- Raising the awareness of the private sector on the environment and the possible integration of the GEF activities into private sector strategies. Strengthening private sector's capacity on environment issues to encourage more private sectors' involvement into GEF funded programmes and Projects. **Action: MINITERE, GEF executive agencies and other potential donors**
- Access of the private sector to GEF financing mechanism and private sector involvement in co-financing environment related programmes. **Action: MINITERE, GEF executive agencies and other potential donors.**
- Research on Renewable Energy: how can the private sector get involved in addressing energy deficit in Rwanda. **Action: MINITERE, GEF executive agencies and other potential donors**
- Organise a special workshop between the private sector and the Government with the objective of raising awareness and exchanging experiences of other countries. **Action: MINITERE, GEF executive agencies and other potential donors**

E. Visit to the region of Bugesera region.

- This region has been identified as a priority region that needs particular actions due to long drought periods and subsequent food shortage. The Government needs to work on the future programming of projects to be

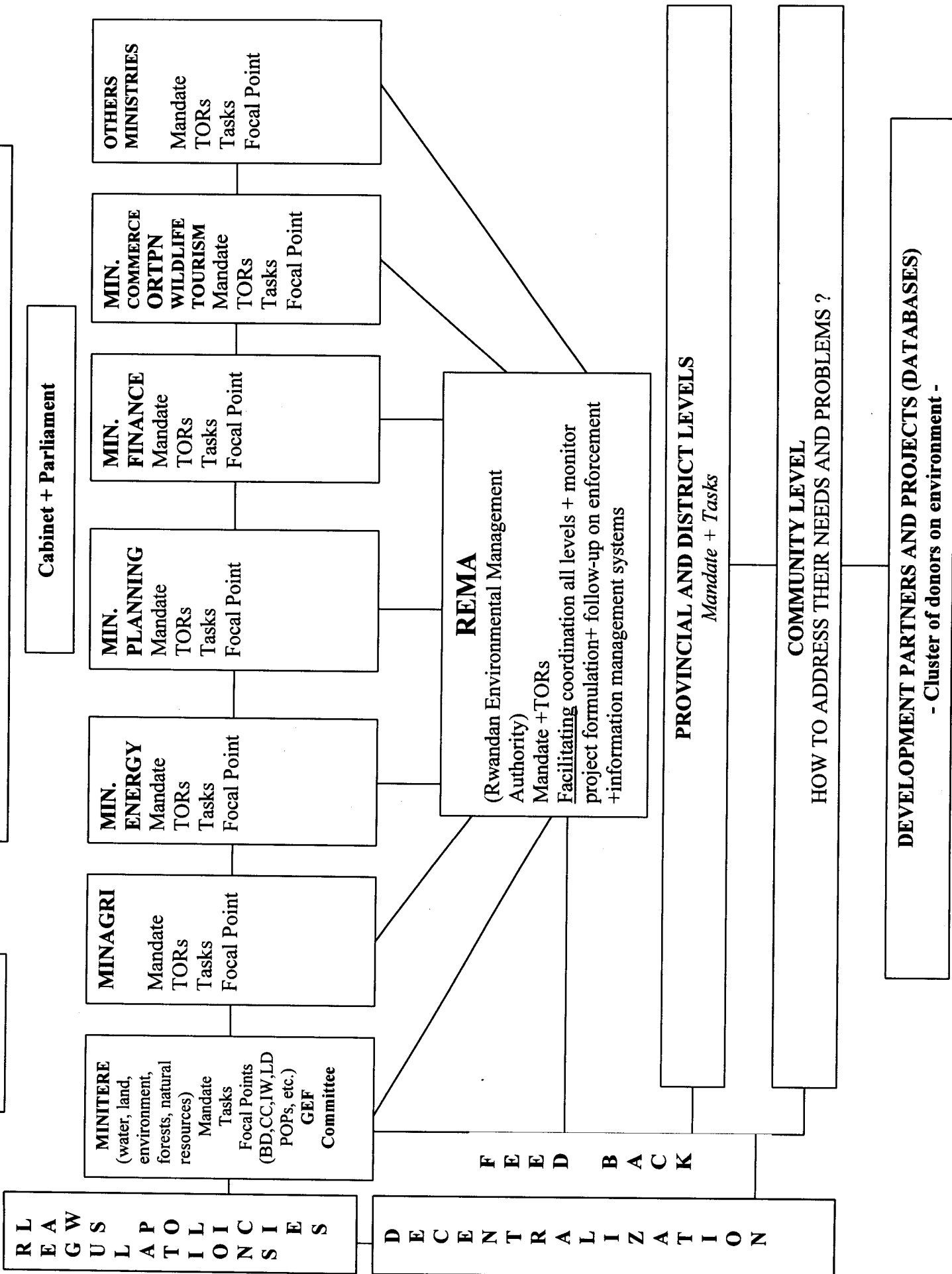
funded by the GEF, and other potential donors. **Action: MINITERE, GEF executive agencies and other potential donors**

Examples:

- Reforestation programme with appropriate tree species and protection of big and small forest reserves.
 - Find a sustainable solution for Rugezi taking into account degradation and other wetlands in general;
 - Initiate income generating activities (socio-economic) for those populations that live near protected areas;
 - Carry out urgent interventions in the region of Bugesera to fight against the consequences of the long drought and harmful agricultural practices, for example methods of agricultural irrigation, rain harvesting, etc....
 - The Water hyacinth has become a major regional problem that needs special attention.
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COORDINATION FRAMEWORK FOR ENVIRONMENT ACTIVITIES IN RWANDA

Annex 1



Cross cutting role
PRIVATE SECTOR
ACCREDITED ENVIRONMENTAL NGOS
CIVIL SOCIETY

ANNEX 2 - DATABASE SUMMARY RWANDA GEF PORTFOLIO (UPDATED 25/2/2004)

Nb	Focal Area	OP	SP	Title	Type	Date	GEF IA	Project EA	Scope	Co-financing			Project status	Notes
										GEF USD	GEF	Total		
1	Biodiversity	3	1	Restoration of conservation capacity for the biodiversity values of the protected areas	Concept PDF B Full	2002 2003	UNDP	MinT : WCS MinT : WCS ?	National	270.000	300.000	570.000	Approved Starting	
2	Biodiversity	EA		Clearing House Mechanism			UNDP	MINITERE	National				Completed	
3	Biodiversity	EA		National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and Country Report to the COP			UNDP	MINITERE	National				Completed	
4	Biodiversity	EA		Elaboration of the 2nd report on the implementation of CBD COP 2002			UNDP	MINITERE	National	25.000			Starting	
5	Biodiversity	3	1	Development of a Regional Strategic Action Plan for the Environment and Biodiversity Resources of the Ecosystems of the Congo Basin	PDF B		UNDP	IUCN/Govts	Regional	347.000		347.000	Completed	
6	Biosafety	EA		EA	EA		UNEP		National				On going	
7	Climate Change	EA		Preparation of initial communication to UNFCCC	EA		UNEP		National					
8	Climate Change	EA		National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA)	EA		UNEP		National				Proposal under preparation	
9	Climate Change			Micro/Mini Hydro Power Capacity Development Project and Investment in Rural Electricity Access in Sub-Saharan Africa	PDF B		UNDP		Regional				Planning	
10	Climate Change			Sustainable Energy + resettlement	Idea		UNDP		National				Planning	Possible extension to Rwanda
11	Climate Change	6		African Rift Geothermal Energy Development Facility	PDFB		UNEP		Regional					
12	Climate Change International	6		Sustainable Energy	Idea	2004	WB		National				Planning	
13	Waters	9		Nile Basin	Full		UNDP:WB		Regional				Starting	
14	Waters	9		Lake Victoria (Phase 2)	PDF A		WB		Regional				Preparation	
15	POPs	EA		Developing National Strategy etc	EA		UNIDO						OnGoing	
16	Land degradation	15		Forest biodiversity+sustainable land management	Idea		UNEP	ICRAF	Regional				Planning	
17	Multi focal	12		Transboundary Agro-Ecosystem Management Programme for the Lower Kagera River Basin	PDF B		UNEP	FAO MinAg	Regional				Ongoing	n planned in 2004
18	Multi focal	12		Integrated Management of Critical Ecosystems	Full		WB		National				Starting	
19	Multi focal			Small Grants Programme	PROGRAM		UNDP	Nat Comm	National				Waiting	
20	Multi focal	EA		National Capacity	Idea		UNDP ?		National					

OP=Operational Programme; SP= Strategic Priority; IA=GEF Implementing Agency; Project EA=Executing Authority in Country; PDF=Project Development Facility at levels A or B; EA=Enabling Activity; Date=Date approval of that project type