

A Green Growth based Kamonyi Land Use Master Plan for a better future



For some time now, Rwanda has been positioning itself to champion a green growth pathway for sustainable economic growth that ensures minimal effects of climate change, environmental protection and health living through pro green policies such as the Environment and Climate Change Policy and the National Urbanization policy agenda.

Rwanda aims at reducing greenhouse gases emission by 38% by 2030 through mainstreaming green concepts in key sectors that include Energy, Agriculture, Water and Sanitation, Natural resources and environment, Housing and Construction among others. This is in line with global urge to reduce carbon emissions and combat climate change that has caused some of the worst disasters and human suffering. Such disasters include extreme weather conditions such as droughts, floods, soil erosion and storms.

It is thus upon such climate change related consequences, coupled with the need for efficient land use that

District land use master plans aim at shifting to a green economy that adapts to climate change threats and devise means for possible ways to mitigate its effects.

For Kamonyi District Land Use Master plan that is underway, emphasis has been put on mainstreaming green concepts in all planning decisions with suggestions that development proposals should be vetted against clear environmental objectives for sustainable development that account for environmental protection but also ensuring socioeconomic transformation for prosperity.

The District must rely on a list of primary environment-sensitive economic opportunities that should be able to deal with existing socioeconomic challenges and citizens needs through identification of key programs and projects capable of balancing the economic development with poverty reduction, environmental management and social inclusiveness.

Key Areas that will lay baseline for a green economy

Clean Renewable Energy as an alternative to climate destructive sources of energy



Energy needs are a precursor for industrial development and economic growth in general. In Kamonyi District, like it is with most other parts of the country, the primary source of energy use is dominated by biomass with majority of households using wood, charcoal, crop waste, gas or biogas energy for cooking fuel needs. Continued reliance on traditional energy represents a major challenge, and dealing with the use of biomass and charcoal is a key priority for Rwanda's energy policy.

More so carbon emissions generated by fossil fuels needed to run some industries, infrastructure installations and transport needs among others are not any different from the climate change challenges they pose world over.

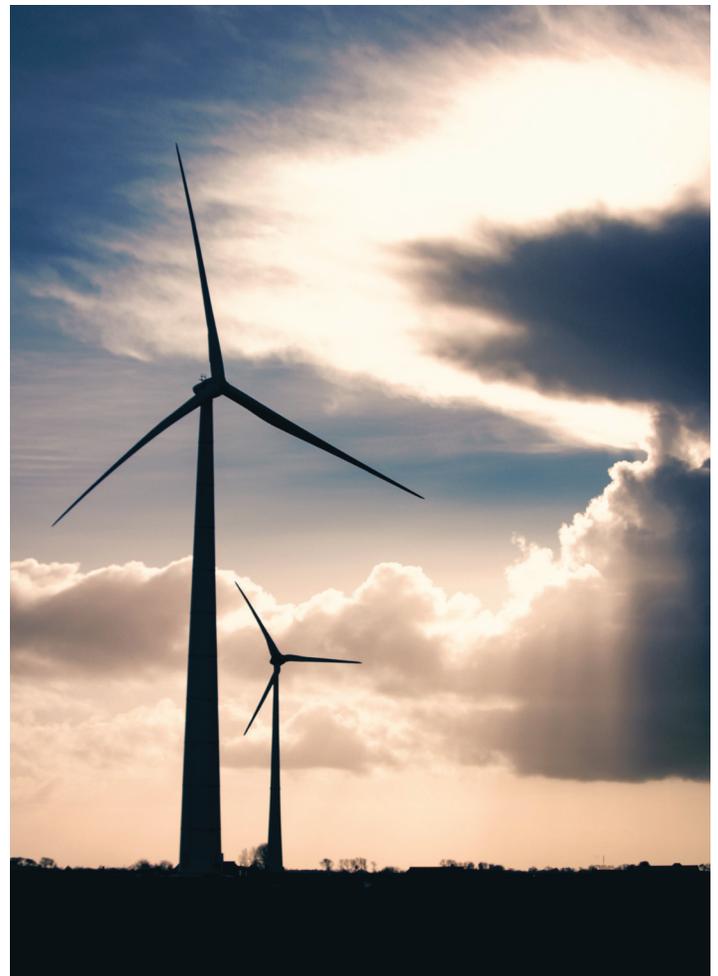
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by developing a sustainable mix of energy generation sources that incorporates renewable energy technology, low carbon emitting sources of energy and maintaining energy infrastructure installations.

Though energy mix targets are set and evaluated at the national level, such targets emphasis lowering fossil-fuel dependency as well as investing in renewable energy such as solar power for lighting, especially to the populations that are not connected to the national grid.

Rwanda is also undertaking various energy efficiency programs including the distribution of compact fluorescent lights (CFL), the 'SolaRwanda' Solar Water Heaters (SWH) project, and the replacement of high-pressure sodium lamps with LEDs in street lights that could benefit the people of Kamonyi in the long run



Industrial development and trade in view of a green economy

Trade and industry sector is among net contributors of environmental pollution and carbon emissions in Kamonyi District and by large Rwanda in general. However much the country contributes low levels of global carbon emissions from its industrial development, it is hoped that its economic growth will be driven largely by advanced industrial growth and increased inter-regional and intercontinental trade which eventually may cause a significant rise in industrial carbon emissions.

There is a lot of potentialities for industrial development in Kamonyi District, majorly in construction, manufacturing, agro processing, mining, and quarrying that form a backbone for the District economic development.

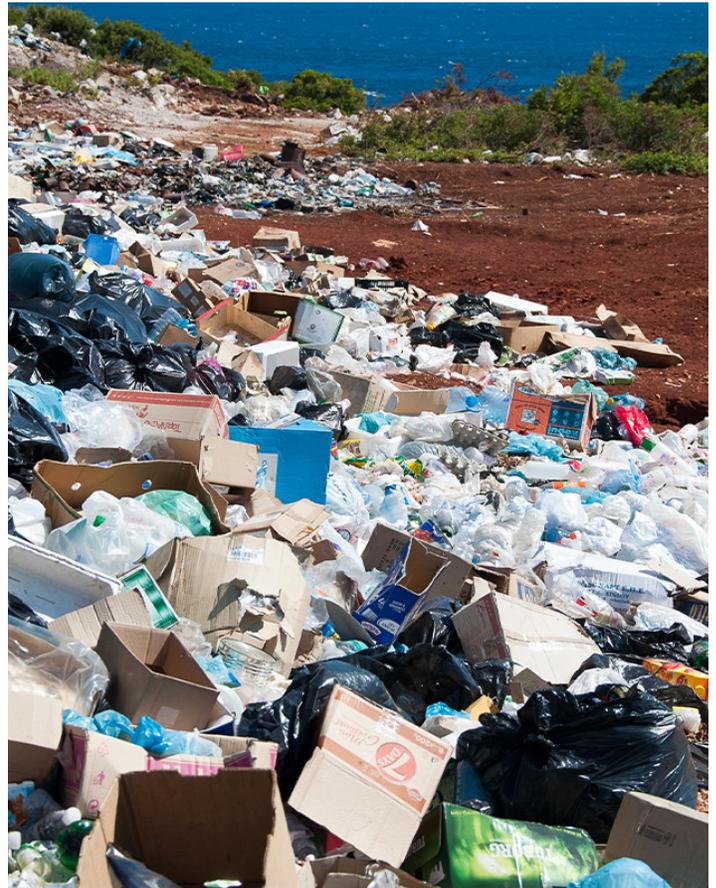


Therefore, there is a need for the Master plan to develop strategies aimed at transforming the industry and trade sectors to adapt to green economy concepts through introduction of smart investments and green jobs where green concepts at every operational stage are considered first, more especially in the mining, quarrying construction and manufacturing sector due to their adverse effect on the environment.

How waste disposal is one of Kamonyi District's concern that calls for green interventions

Rising population and urbanization in Kamonyi District are the most prevailing factors for waste management concerns in the face of promoting efforts for a green led economy. It is well known that waste is among the leading carbon emitting factors and environmental pollutant that contribute to serious environmental threats. The current situation indicates that the District faces challenges in waste disposal given that there is no land fill but just waste collection centers through which dumped waste is collected and taken to Muhanga District land fill.

A green led urban setting such as Kamonyi's urban centers call for efficient waste management that account for measures to protect the environment from waste related pollution. Such smart measures as the new District land Use master plan suggests include waste recycling and re-purposing such as the generation of electric power from landfill gas to help meet growing energy demand. There are other government initiatives to increase waste recycling through the use of aerobic biological treatment and composting that may help in dealing with waste management in the District.



Efficiency in forest management in restoring nature and ensuring a green environment

One of the major challenges in ensuring a conducive environment is the rate at which forests have vanished due to competing industrialization needs and other socio-economic activities needed to sustain societies.

Rwanda has had its share of challenges in employing efforts to maintain forest cover with the ever increasing population that put too much pressure on land, including forests in such for land needed for economic activities, settlement and energy needs.

In Kamonyi District many people still rely on firewood and charcoal for cooking needs that continuously pose a threat to existing forest cover with in the District. At the same time, deforestation has been among the leading cause of loss of biodiversity that has had negative effects in maintaining nature, there by affecting efforts to reach low



carbon emissions levels.

The Kamonyi Land Use Master plan will provide clear guidelines that will help to switch to sustainable practices to ensure protection of natural resources. The guidelines propose measures, among them maintaining for aest cover by afforestation mostly on slopes of over 55 degrees and areas outside settlement boundaries and if need be, increase forest cover that will aim at dealing with soil erosion challenges among others.

These solutions also recommend development of renewable energy sources such as solar and hydroelectricity to provide alternative source of energy to save forests. The master plan proposal projects that at least 20% of the needed afforestation cover will be implemented by 2025 with 1% regular evolution of forestation until 2050.

Continuous tackling of citizen's land use challenges in view of honoring their aspirations for inclusive socioeconomic development

Land use in Kamonyi, like it is with all other parts of the country is a mater that is at the hearts of citizens. This is due to the fact that most people sustain their well being from utilizing land, especially for agriculture and settlement purposes. However the need to align land use for efficiency such as planned settlements, ensuring protection of agriculture land and other protected land, require deep studies and identifying key challenges that need consensus within the communities on how to deal with such challenges.

Such situation calls for thorough engagement and participation activities with the local actors to minimize land use related challenges and ensuring socio-economic activities thrive well within the communities.

So far such public engagement and participation of the local actors have been carried out in various Sectors within the District and are still ongoing to cover all the remaining Sectors.

These activities have provided information on the



most suitable land for public infrastructure and social amenities such as market centers, water sources, open green spaces, school infrastructure, cemeteries, waste dumping sites, commercial complexes and sites and places of worship among others.

All this is expected to be captured well in the detailed District land use master plan to facilitate sustainable development through efficient use of land.



A recap of our previous Newsletters and insights on the upcoming content storyline

As Presented in the Interim report, our previous editions captured key takes of the master plan process that were worth mentioning in our Newsletter reports such as the Conceptual development and infrastructure planning along side activities that were taking place within those months. They included the following elements;

- Structural plans in view of major elements such as the District land slopes and terrain, Agriculture land, Wetlands and water bodies and the Push factors for the District's developable land.
- The Same Newsletter shade light on the processes to the eventual Conceptual plan choice in view of the earlier chosen District vision that will aim at guiding its development aspirations towards the year 2050.
- In our subsequent edition, the Newsletter covered much about the infrastructure development plan that include the road networks and the strategic impact, Parking facilities, Public transport needs and Water, sanitation and waste management among other infrastructure elements of the District Land Use plan.
- The same Newsletter captured key activities that took place in that same month such as public engagement and participation on Land readjustment and later on, public engagement on suitability of land use and zoning with in all the Sectors which is still under way.

Expectations of our next

Newsletter content;

The upcoming Newsletter Editions will look at the next phase of the master plan process with key highlights of the monthly activities which include more coverage of the remaining Sectors' public engagement on land use and zoning suitability, Capital Improvement Plan, elaboration of the phasing plan, and the Identification of Catalytic projects among other elements of the District land use master plan as we draw closer to what will be contained in the Draft report, which is the third Phase of the the Master plan processes.

