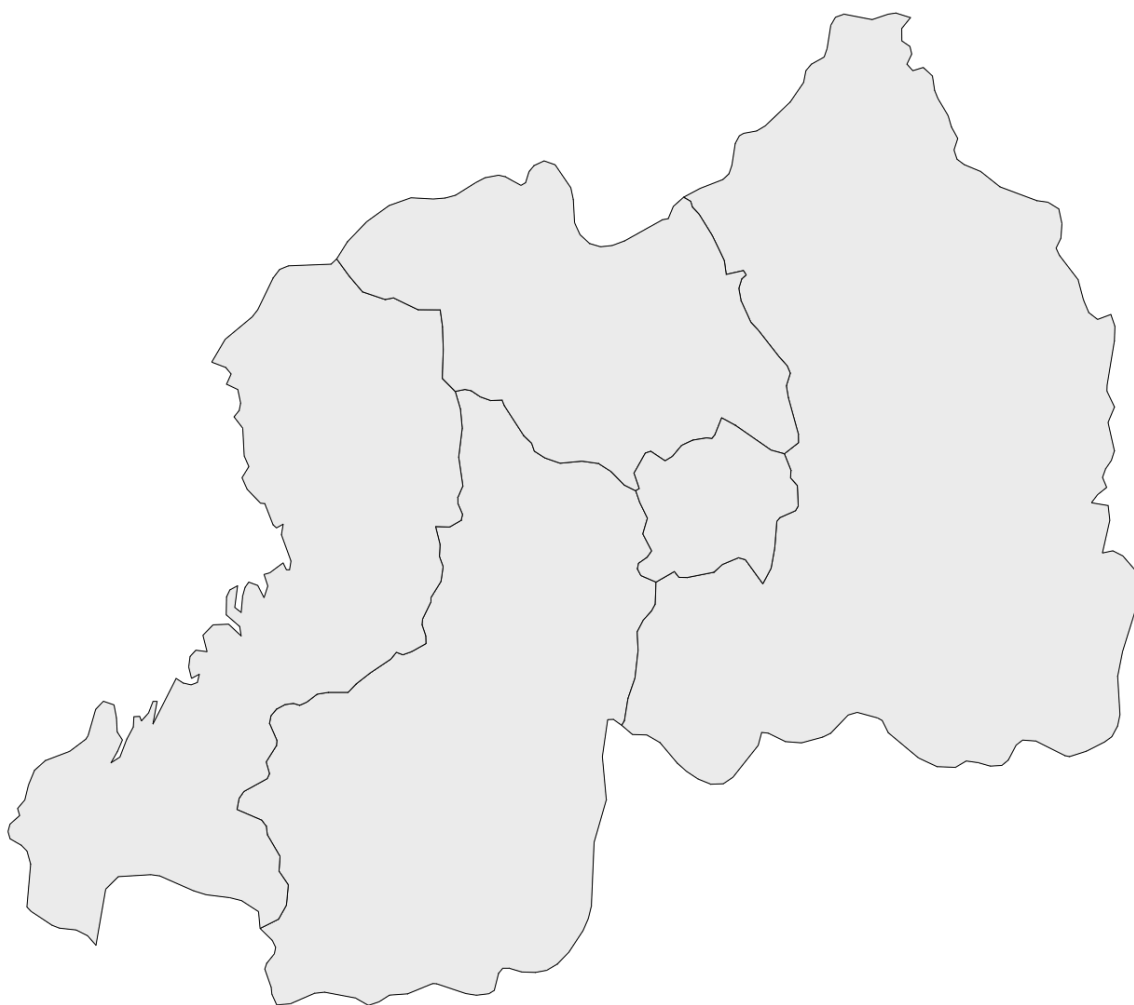


**University-Government Collaboration on Climate
Adaptation Finance**



RWANDA COUNTRY PROFILE



August 2024

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ABBREVIATIONS

Acronyms	Definitions
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CF	Climate Finance
CoEB	Center of Excellence in Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management
GEF	Global Environment Facility
LDC	Least Developed Countries
LUCCC	Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium on Climate Change
MoE	Ministry of Environment of Rwanda
NFP	National Focal Point
P&I	Policy and Institutions
PoC	Point-of-Contact
TT	Think Tank
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNI-LEAD	LDC University Leadership for Catalyzing Climate-Adaptation Finance
UR	University of Rwanda

Executive Summary

The objective of this country profile is to provide an overview on the status and the opportunities for university-government collaborations to access finance for climate change adaptation. The information contained in this profile comes from a policy and institutional mapping of key climate adaptation documents, institutions policies, and initiatives within Rwanda, combined with a roadmap that was collaboratively developed by the university existing and potential entry points for increased engagement of the university with the government.

Key relevant policies that present potential opportunities for strengthening university-government collaborations for climate adaptation in Rwanda include:

- Revised National Gender Policy (2021)
- Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (2020)
- Rwanda Vision 2050 (2020)
- National Environment and Climate change policy (2019)
- National Disaster Management Policy (2013)
- Revised Green Growth and Climate Resilience: National Strategy for Climate Change and Low Carbon Development (September 2022)
- Rwanda's accreditation to GCF: The Government of Rwanda through the Ministry of Environment (MoE) was first accredited to GCF in 2016 for a period of 5 years. MoE has been reaccredited to GCF in Nov 2022, at the 34th GCF Board Meeting MoE has been reaccredited to GCF in Nov 2022, at the 34th GCF Board Meeting.
- National Strategy for Transformation (NST1) (2017-2024)
- National Land Policy (June 2019)
- Rwanda National Forestry Policy 2018
- National agriculture policy 2017

Key institutions that could potentially offer opportunities for strengthening university-government collaboration on climate adaptation in Rwanda:

- Ministry of Environment (MoE)
- Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN)
- Ministry of Agriculture and Animal resources (MINAGRI)
- FONERWA
- Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA)
- Rwanda Forest Authority (RFA)
- Center of Excellence in Biodiversity and Natural Resources Management (CoEB)
- Rwanda Commission of UNESCO
- UNICEF
- IUCN
- Water for People
- Meteo Rwanda
- Rwanda Water Board
- Rwanda Institute of Conservation Agriculture (RICA)
- ARCOS Network

Important constraints/difficulties in accessing climate adaptation finance in Rwanda

The constraints/difficulties in accessing adaptation financing identified by the stakeholders include among others:

- Complexity of application processes
- Data and information gaps
- Limited capacity in climate finance concept note and proposal development.

Entry points for university-government collaborations

The adaptation policies and institutional mapping revealed the existence of entry points for university-government collaborations on climate adaptation finance in Rwanda. They include:

- The Academia and Research Institutions have a role played in the established Rwanda's Climate Adaptation Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning System, in assisting with capacity development initiatives on adaptation MEL (monitoring, evaluation & learning) and carry out research on adaptation MEL.
- The Academia is a member of the Government of Rwanda established Environment and Natural Resources Sector Working Group (ENR-SWG), and the Environment and Climate Change Thematic Working Group (ECC-TWG).
- The academia can support Rwanda's Climate Change Agenda and Investment Priorities in capacity developing and project designing.
- They are a potential of a strategic collaboration with the MoE, and leverage on its status as the only National Direct Access Accredited Entity to the Green Climate Fund.
- The university can play a key role in generating data for policy-makers and projects promoters to develop evidence-based climate rationale for adaptation projects in strategic adaptation sectors identified in the updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), including the qualitative mid-term evaluation of Rwanda's NDC.

1. INTRODUCTION

This country profile is a product of the UNI-LEAD project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the benefit of 13 Least Developed Countries (LDC), members of the LUCCC¹ network. The country profile has been prepared for general guidance on the status of university-government collaborations to access finance for climate change adaptation.

The document is part of a series of seven country profiles produced as part of the UNI-LEAD project. The objective of this exercise is to present the overall situation in terms of collaboration between government institutions (policy makers) in charge of climate actions at country-level and national universities and research institutes with the aim of mobilizing domestic and international funding for climate change adaptation.

The country profile has been prepared taking into account four key elements including (i) the literature review and expert judgement on existing collaborations in the climate adaptation processes, (ii) the best practices guidelines on university-government collaborations in the field of climate change (iii) the country policies and institutional mapping report, and (iv) the reports of various consultations and dialogues organized at regional, national and provincial levels.

2. COUNTRY OVERVIEW

1	Observed and projected climate change risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Temperature Increase ▪ Precipitation Variability ▪ Heavy rainfall events, landslides ▪ Drought
2	Observed and projected climate change impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water Resources: Climate change impacts on water resources, affecting availability for agriculture, industry, and domestic use. Changes in rainfall patterns and increased evaporation rates may exacerbate water scarcity issues. ▪ Agriculture and Food Security: Rwanda's economy is heavily reliant on agriculture, making it vulnerable to climate change impacts on crop yields, livestock health, and food security. Shifts in temperature and rainfall patterns can disrupt agricultural production systems. ▪ Health Risks: Climate change can increase the prevalence of vector-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue fever, as changing temperatures and rainfall patterns create favourable conditions for disease vectors to thrive. ▪ Ecosystem Degradation: Climate change poses risks to Rwanda's biodiversity and ecosystems, including loss of habitat, altered migration patterns, and increased pressure on natural resources.
3	Most vulnerable sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agriculture / Livestock ▪ Water

¹Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium on Climate Change

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Land ▪ Forestry ▪ Energy ▪ Health ▪ Biodiversity and Tourism ▪ Infrastructures ▪ Human settlement ▪ Transport ▪ Mining
4	Opportunities for climate adaptation and resilience-building in Rwanda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Investing in climate-resilient agricultural practices such as conservation agriculture, agroforestry, and crop diversification can enhance food security and livelihoods while mitigating the impacts of climate change on crop yields. ▪ Improving water resource management through infrastructure development, watershed management, and water harvesting techniques can help mitigate water scarcity and reduce vulnerability to droughts and floods. ▪ Expanding access to clean and renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power can reduce reliance on fossil fuels, mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, and enhance energy security. ▪ Protecting and restoring ecosystems such as forests, wetlands, and watersheds can help maintain biodiversity, regulate water cycles, and provide natural buffers against climate-related hazards such as landslides and floods. ▪ Integrating climate resilience into infrastructure planning and development, including roads, buildings, and urban infrastructure, can enhance their ability to withstand extreme weather events and minimize disruptions. ▪ Strengthening early warning systems for extreme weather events such as floods, storms, and heatwaves can improve preparedness and response, saving lives and reducing economic losses.
5	Adaptation financing needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ enhancing resilience to climate change effects through adaptation measures in priority sectors namely water, agriculture, land, forestry, human settlement, transport, health, and mining; ▪ According to the Rwanda NDC, Adaptation investment levels from the total 5.3 billion USD through 2030: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agriculture 55% - Human settlement 15% - Transport 11% - Water 10% - Land and Forestry 4% - Health 3% - Others 2%

6	Climate change adaptation challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limited access to information ▪ Capabilities gaps for handling climate change data at the national, regional and local levels ▪ Limited mainstreaming of climate change concerns into relevant policies and planning processes at the state and national levels
7	LUCCC University name and address	University of Rwanda (UR), KK 737 St, Kigali
8	Host of a potential Think Tank	Center of Excellence in Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management (CoEB)
9	UNI-LEAD Point of Contact (PoC) and TT Coordination	Dr Callixte Gatali Research Associate UR-CoEB +250788 848 441 callixte.gatali99@gmail.com
10	UNFCCC National Focal Point (NFP)	Mr. Faustin Munyazikwiye Deputy Director General Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) Kimironko, Kigali +250 788 462 012 fmunyazikwiye@rema.gov.rw
11	GCF National Designated Authority	Mrs. Juliet Kabera Director General Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) PHONE +250 788 514 577 JKABERA@REMA.GOV.RW MDUKUZE@REMA.GOV.RW DALIEDUKUZE@GMAIL.COM
12	Adaptation Fund Designated Authority	Mr. Patrick Karera Permanent Secretary Ministry of Environment (MoE) P.O. Box 3502 Kigali, Rwanda Tel: +250 789 414 092 Email: pkarera@environment.gov.rw
13	GEF Focal Point	Mr. Patrick Karera Political Focal Point since 2020-08-14 Permanent Secretary Ministry of Environment P.O. Box 3502, Kigali, Rwanda pkarera@environment.gov.rw Mrs. Juliet Kabera Operational Focal Point since 2020-08-14 Director General Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) P.O. Box 7436 Kacyiru Kigali, Rwanda Tel: +250 252580101 Fax: +250252580017 Email: jkabera@rema.gov.rw ; bkabandana@rema.gov.rw

3. POLICIES AND INSTITUTIONAL MAPPING AND ENTRY-POINTS

3.1. P&I Mapping

Policies mapping:

Policy name (official)	Jurisdiction	Responsible institution(s)	Main policy objective	Secondary policy objective(s) (if relevant)	Policy description
National Environment and Climate change policy 2019	National	Ministry of Environment	The main objective of the policy is "adaptation" and "mitigation". Rwanda to be a nation that has a clean and healthy environment, resilient to climate variability and change that supports a high quality of life for its society	1) Greening economic transformation 2) Enhancing functional natural ecosystems and managing biosafety 3) Strengthening meteorological and early warning services 4) Promote climate change adaptation, mitigation and response 5) Improve environmental well-being for Rwandans. 6) Strengthen environment and climate change governance 7) Promote green foreign and domestic direct investment and other capital inflows	The Policy provides strategic direction and responses to the emerging issues and critical challenges in environmental management and climate change adaptation and mitigation. The key issues and challenges identified include high population density, water, air and soil pollution, land degradation, fossil-fuel dependency, high-carbon transport systems, irrational exploitation of natural ecosystems, lack of low-carbon materials for housing and green infrastructure development, inadequate waste treatment for both solid and liquid waste,

					increase of electronic, hazardous chemicals and materials waste, among others.
Revised Green growth and Climate resilience: National Strategy for Climate Change and Low Carbon Development	National	Ministry of Environment	"Adaptation' and Mitigation" The strategy is aligned to the government Vision 2050: For Rwanda to be a developed climate-resilient, low-carbon economy by 2050. The strategy provides a vision for how Rwanda can tackle climate change through becoming a climate resilient and low carbon economy, and projects actions to be undertaken to inform Rwanda's strategy for economic development, Vision 2050.	To achieve Energy Security and a Low Carbon Energy Supply that supports the development of Green Industry and Services; To achieve Sustainable Land Use and Water Resource Management that results in Food Security, appropriate Urban Development and preservation of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services; To achieve Social Protection and Disaster Risk Reduction that reduces vulnerability to climate change impacts	The strategy is articulated on 14 programs of action: 1) Sustainable intensification of small-scale farming 2) Agricultural diversity of markets 3) Climate compatible mining 4) Green industry and private sector development 5) Resilient transport systems 6) Sustainable land use management 7) Integrated water resource management 8) Low carbon urban systems 9) Low carbon energy grid 10) Ecotourism, conservation and PES 11) Small-scale energy access in rural areas 12) Sustainable forestry, agroforestry and biomass 13) Disaster Management

					and Disease prevention 14) Climate data and projections
Strategic programme for climate resilience (SPCR) 2017	National	FONERWA	The main objective is "Adaptation"-----Rwanda has chosen a programmatic approach to the Strategic Programme for Climate Resilience (SPCR), one reinforced by the transformational shift from business as usual, sector- based approaches, to a fundamentally integrated programmatic approach that requires cross-ministerial collaboration and the integration of climate resilience into development imperatives. As Rwanda is undergoing a transformative national planning process, the SPCR is one of its vehicles to build strong national capacity, and do business unusually.	The three cross-cutting priorities of SPCR are: 1. CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITY 1: Technical Capacity Building and Strengthening Institutional Coordination 2. CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITY 2: Integrated Land Use Planning and Spatial Planning 3. CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITY 3: Climate Services and Disaster Risk Reduction /Disaster Risk Management.	Agriculture Driven Prosperity: (1) climate-resilient value chain development; and (2) climate- smart agriculture and agroforestry. This investment programme would be implemented for an estimated US\$ 44.4 million. It would provide climate-smart strategic support to Rwanda's agriculture and agroforestry sectors, while implementing participatory adaptation and climate resilient infrastructure in targeted areas.
Rwanda Updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) 2020	National	Ministry of Environment	The Government of Rwanda is committed to taking urgent action to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. As a Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the country seeks to contribute to	1) Rwanda's mitigation contribution: A detailed assessment of identified GHG mitigation options for Rwanda estimates a total emissions reduction potential of around 4.6 million tCO ₂ e in 2030 against the BAU (business-as-usual)	This document presents the Government of Rwanda's update of its first Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for mitigation and adaptation for the period to 2030.

			<p>the ambitious goal of limiting temperature rise to 2oC with efforts to reach 1.5oC agreed under the Paris Agreement.</p>	<p>emissions in the same year of 12.1 million tCO2 e. 2) Rwanda’s Adaptation contribution: prioritises adaptation interventions, establish baselines, and develops sector-level performance indicators and targets. In total, 24 adaptation interventions are proposed, classified according to 8 key sectors (water, agriculture, land and forestry, human settlement, health, transport, mining and cross sectional).</p>	<p>The contributions described in this submission build upon Rwanda’s existing NDC, new policies and national plans, and reflect subsequent work in developing quantifiable mitigation and adaptation targets, and the prioritization of interventions to support these two areas. The updated NDC represents a more detailed and robust assessment of mitigation and adaptation measures in Rwanda informed by in-depth analysis, improved information and data, increased ambition, and an extensive stakeholder-driven consultation process.</p>
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Rwanda Vision 2050	National	Government of Rwanda	The two overarching goals for the Vision 2050 are: 1) Economic growth and Prosperity; and 2) High Quality and Standards of Life for Rwandans	Vision 2050 builds on 5 strategic pillars: 1. Human Development 2. Competitiveness and Integration 3. Agriculture for Wealth Creation 4. Urbanization and Agglomeration 5. Accountable and Capable State Institutions	Rwanda's Vision 2050 articulates the long-term strategic direction for “the Rwanda we want” and the enabling pathways to achieve this ambition. Energized by – but by no means content with – the past two decades of success in reducing poverty, increasing incomes, improving living standards, strengthening good governance, promoting home grown solutions, establishing rule of law, maintaining stability, promoting gender equality and women empowerment, peace and security. Rwanda now aspires to transform its economy and modernize the lives of all Rwandans.
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National Land Policy	National	Ministry of Environment	This revised land policy builds on the achievements of the 2004 land policy and ensures continuity of the unfinished agenda in different land thematic areas such as land use planning, land use management and land administration. The revised land policy will focus on efficient use and management of land to support the national transformation goals without compromising the benefits of future generations.	Actions proposed to be implemented in the course of this policy are organized around three main pillars (land use planning, surveying and mapping; land use management; and land administration)	The policy has 8 thematic areas: (i) land use planning, surveying, and mapping, (ii) land utilization by various sectors, (iii) efficient land use management, (iv) land for private sector investment, (v) land registration, (vi) administration of land lease fees, real property taxes, and land markets, (vii) securing land rights and management of land disputes, and (viii) institutional and coordination framework of the land sub-sector
National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Policy 2023	National	Ministry of disaster management and refugees affairs	The policy is about "adaptation" and "mitigation"-----This policy seeks to establish the guiding principles and architecture for disaster management in Rwanda by presenting the institutional structures, roles, responsibilities, authorities and key processes required to achieve a coordinated, coherent and consistent approach. The policy provides overarching	Strengthen the legal and institutional framework for the management of disasters, including the promotion of a culture of disaster awareness and for building the capacity for Disaster Management at all levels; Ensure that institutions and disaster risk management activities are coordinated and are focused to foster participatory	XXX The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Policy provides a framework for effective disaster management that focuses on prevention and preparedness for effective response, recovery and longer-term resilience

			<p>frameworks for decision-making and coordination across disaster management sectors and actors, including government ministries, civil society organizations, international organizations and the private sector</p>	<p>partnerships between the Government (including mainstreamed and emergency disaster-related activities by sector Ministries) and other stakeholders, at all levels, including international, regional, sub-regional Eastern African, national and sub-national bodies;</p> <p>Promote linkages between Disaster Management and sustainable development for the reduction of vulnerability to hazards and disasters.</p>	<p>to future disasters. The Policy outlines five (5) strategic focus areas, these are (a) Establishing professional disaster risk management system; (b) Integrating risk reduction into national development policy and plans; (c) Enhancing capacities of institutions and human resources; (d) Promoting knowledge and innovations for empowering communities at risk and (e) Expanding risk reduction programming through public & private investments.</p>
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Key institutions mapping:

Institution / Organisation	Actor type	Description of role	Description of level and area of influence
FONERWA	Government/public actors	The Rwanda Green Fund (FONERWA) is investing in public and private projects that drive transformative change. It is one of the first national environment and climate change investment funds in Africa. The Fund invests in sustainable wealth creation and poverty reduction by providing strategic financing that accelerates Rwanda's commitment to building a strong climate resilient and green economy.	The green fund is responsible of funding competitive projects in the area of Environment and climate change
Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA)	Government Agency	REMA works with GCF mobilize climate finance by working through a wide range of organizations. REMA provides technical support on environment regulatory framework to individuals and entities engaged in natural resource management and environment	REMA is a regulatory institution in charge of environment and climate change
Center of Excellence in Biodiversity and Natural Resources Management	University	Data provider on biodiversity, ecosystems resilience and adaptation, Conduct Research and development to inform decision making	Research
Ministry of Environment	Government/public actors	Preparation and implementation of policies related to environment and climate change.	Leading climate action
Meteo Rwanda	Government/public actors	To provide accurate, timely weather and climate information and products for the general welfare of the peoples of Rwanda	Climate services providers
Rwanda water Resources Board (RWB)	Government Agency	Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) is established by the law N° 71/2019 of 29/01/2020. RWB has legal personality and enjoys administrative and financial autonomy and is managed in accordance with relevant laws and falls within the category of non-commercial public institutions.	The mission of RWB is to ensure the availability of enough and well managed water resources for sustainable development.

3.2. Entry points

Rwanda's Climate Adaptation Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning System

The Academia and Research Institutions have a role played in the established Rwanda's Climate Adaptation Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning System. The Ministry of Environment of Rwanda, in their "*Rwanda's Climate Adaptation Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning System in the Agriculture Sector: Institutional arrangements*", Research and academic institutions were assigned to assist with capacity development initiatives on adaptation MEL (monitoring, evaluation & learning) and carry out research on adaptation MEL.

The Academia is also a member of the Government of Rwanda established Environment and Natural Resources Sector Working Group (ENR-SWG).

Chaired by the MoE and a development partner representative (the head of Development Cooperation in the German Embassy in Rwanda was the co-chair 2022), the ENR-SWG is comprised of representatives from government institutions involved in environment and natural resources, including MINECOFIN, REMA, the Rwanda Green Fund (FONERWA), Meteo Rwanda, the Rwanda Forestry Authority, the National Land Authority, MINAGRI, and the Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB), as well as development partners, NGOs, academia, and the private sector (MoE, 2017). The sector working group holds semi-annual JSR sessions to track, monitor, evaluate, and report on the implementation of sector priorities (MoE, 2020, p. 58).

Environment and Climate Change Thematic Working Group (ECC-TWG)

A sub-entity of the ENR-SWG, the ECC-TWG is chaired by the Director General of REMA and co-chaired by a development partner (The World Bank Country Manager was co-chair in 2022). The thematic working group includes representatives from government institutions, development partners, NGOs, academia, and the private sector. The ECC-TWG meets twice a year and supports implementation in the sector, including monitoring, evaluation, and progress reporting on environmental and climate change priorities (MoE, 2020). The thematic working group is responsible for coordinating the implementation of Rwanda's NDC, including the implementation of, monitoring of, and reporting on adaptation actions (MoE and REMA, 2022). The working group provides guidance on the design, planning, and implementation of adaptation actions prioritized in the NDC and will contribute to the updating of the NDC (MoE, 2020). The ECC-TWG fulfils a quality assurance role that includes reviewing national reports to be submitted to the UNFCCC, such as national communications and adaptation communications.

The University of Rwanda through a think tank on climate adaptation finance can support the NDC MRV/MEL Technical Working Committee (a sub-committee of ECC-TWG chaired by REMA and will be comprised of a core team appointed by the ECC-TWG, in which the academia is represented), in its role to (MoE, 2020):

- Reviewing and examining studies and research activities in line with NDCs to facilitate quality assurance and alignment with strategic priorities.
- Providing advice, feedback, and guidance on the scope, schedule, cost, and quality concerns that arise during the planning, design, and implementation of projects related to NDCs.
- Facilitating access to the resources necessary for the operation of the adaptation MEL system.
- Defining and using common data sources, methods, and procedures to monitor and report on adaptation.

Supporting Rwanda's Climate Change Agenda and Investment Priorities

Another entry points for university-government collaboration is the implementation of the Rwanda's Climate Change Agenda and Investment Priorities, which were presented during the country engagement workshop on January 29, 2024, by Mrs Anabella U. Kayihura-Climate Investment and Partnership Specialist in the Ministry of Environment during the engagement.

The Updated Rwanda NDC highlighted the need to enhancing resilience to climate change effects through adaptation measures in priority sectors namely water, agriculture, land, forestry, human settlement, transport, health, and mining.

- Funding requirements associated with all identified mitigation options, estimated at 5.7 billion USD through 2030.
- The total amount of NDC adaptation interventions is estimated at 5.3 billion USD through 2030.

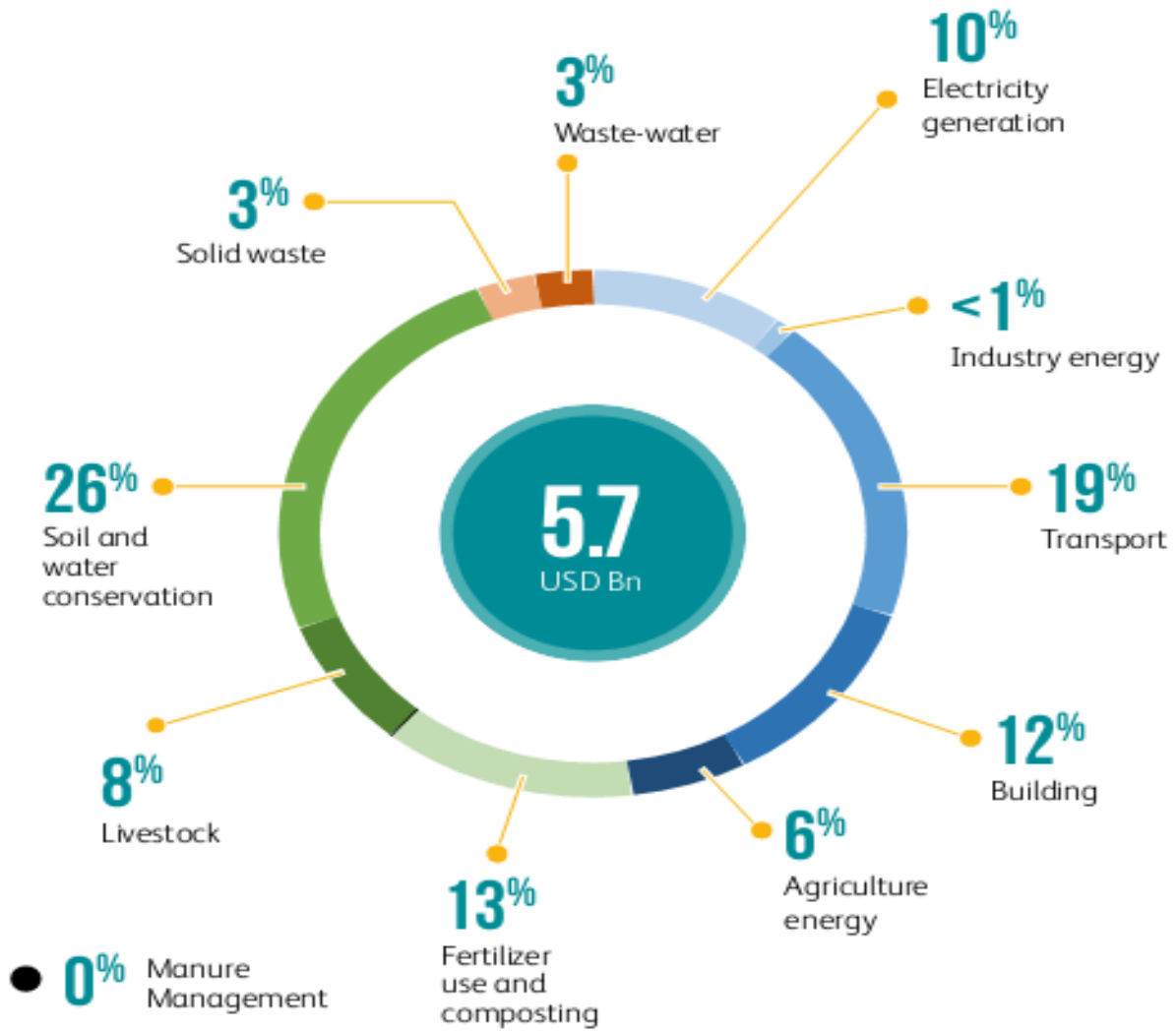


Figure: Investment requirements for all identified mitigation measures through 2030

Source: Updated NDC

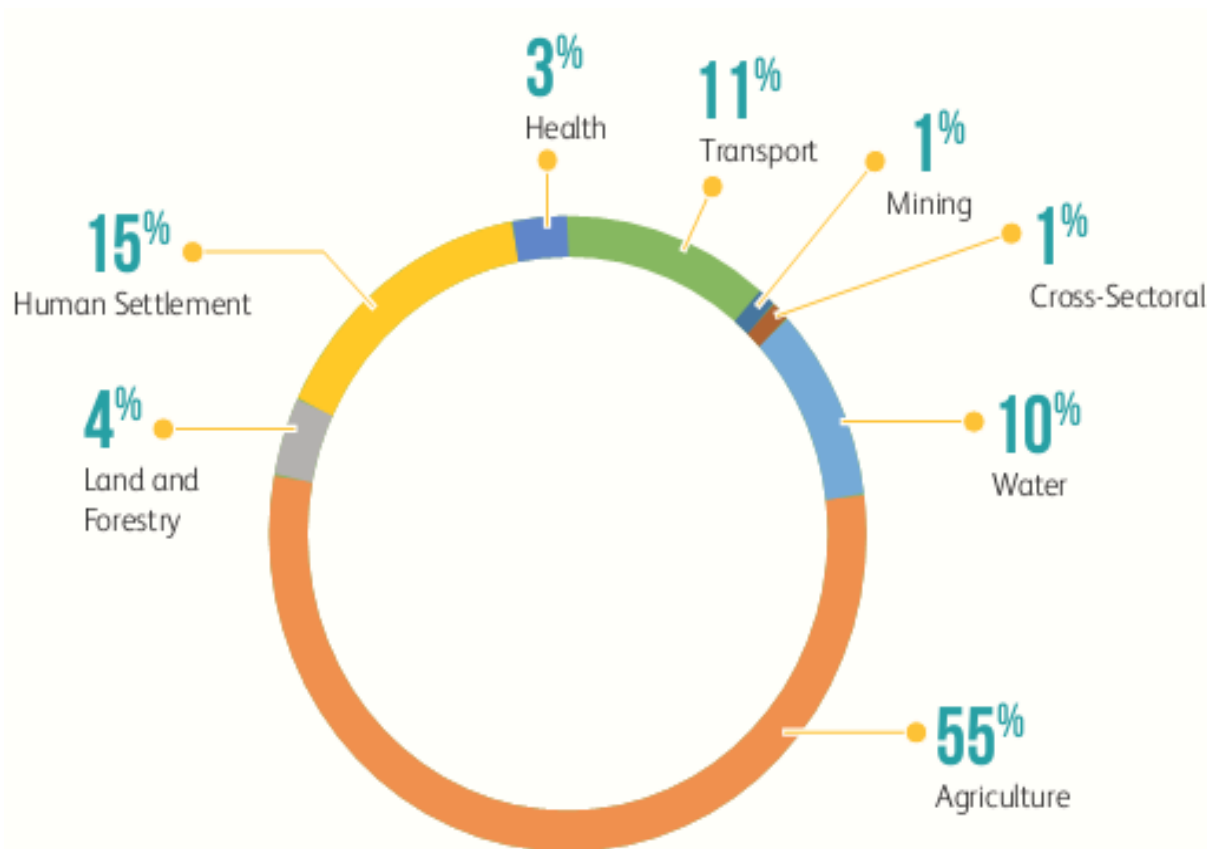


Figure: Adaptation investment levels from the total 5.3 billion USD through 2030

Source: Updated NDC

Leveraging on National Direct Access Accredited Entity to GCF

Rwanda is one of the few countries in the world with a government entity accredited to Direct Access to the GCF Fund. The Ministry of Environment of Rwanda since 2016 is a GCF Direct access Accredited Entity, for Small Project (10M-50M). The MoE has been recredited in November 2022, at the 34th GCF Board Meeting.

But since 2016, the MoE were able to guarantee GCF funding only for two cross-cutting projects. It give the university an opportunity to support the MoE is leveraging on such accreditation tool by designing and submitting strong adaptation projects to the GCF and facilitate access to climate finance to achieve the Rwanda climate adaptation agenda.

4. ROADMAP

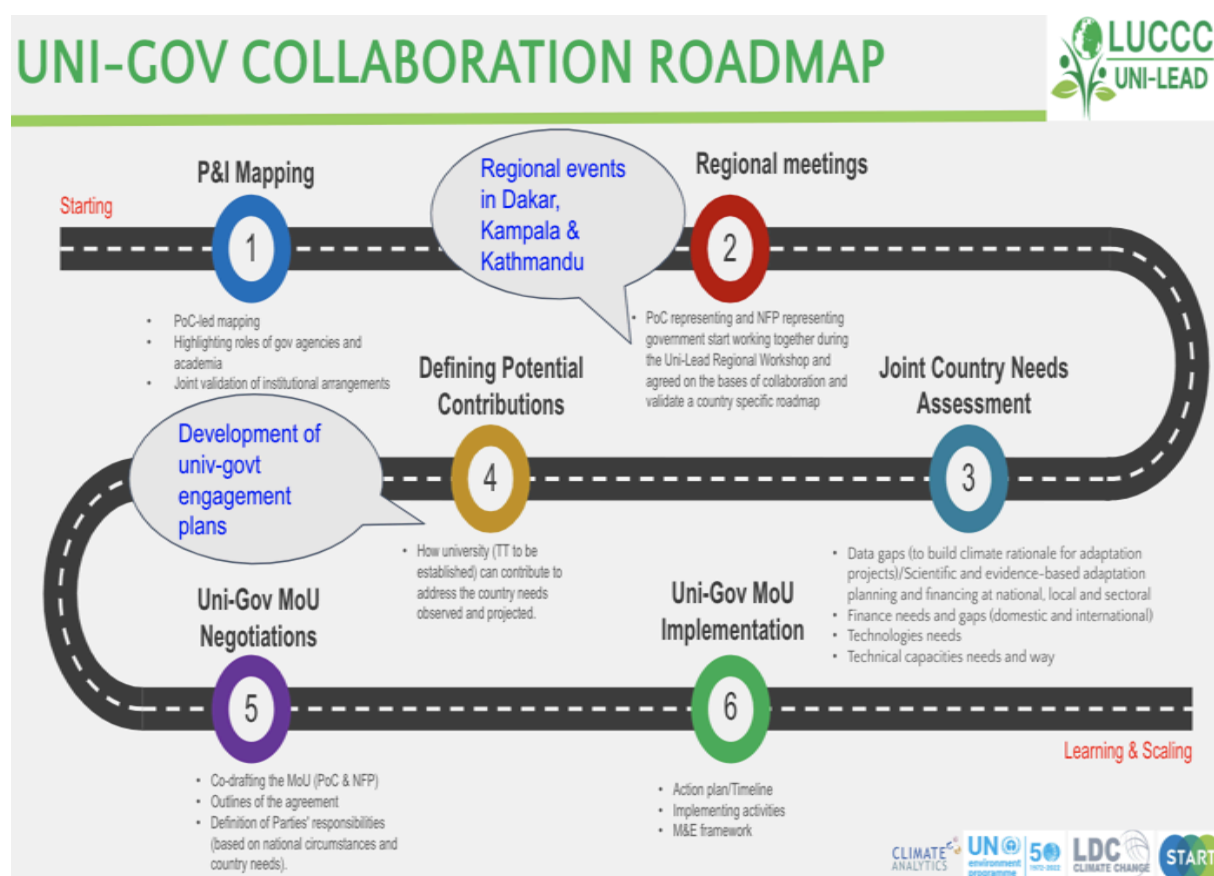
Following the mapping of the adaptation policies and institutions a roadmap for University-government linkages for collaboration in climate change adaptation has been co-developed.

The main goal of the roadmap is to build University-government linkages to support Rwanda's government climate adaptation Monitoring, evaluation and monitoring system.

Other specific objectives include:

1. Building partnerships between University and government institutions dealing with climate adaptation finance
2. Country needs assessment for climate adaptation finance
3. Capacity development (e.g. research proposal writing) and carrying out research on climate adaptation
4. Implement and monitor climate adaptation related projects
5. Fund mobilization for climate adaptation finance

The following figure present a step-by-step roadmap to building a pilot university-government collaboration for climate adaptation in Rwanda as part of the UNI-LEAD project:



5. NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT

An engagement meeting was held on January 29, 2024, between stakeholders from both sides, the The Center of Excellence in Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management of the University of Rwanda and the Government of Rwanda.

The meeting was attended by participants drawn from the University of Rwanda (UR)/Center of Excellence in Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management, College of Science and Technology (CST), College of Agriculture, Animal Sciences and Veterinary Medicine (CAVM), and government officials from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN), the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and Rwanda Forest Authority (RFA).

The purpose of this meeting between University of Rwanda/CoEB and Government of Rwanda officials was to facilitate engagements with the Government of Rwanda (GoR) agencies on the capacity building needs for fostering access to climate adaptation finance in Rwanda.

This engagement session served as platform to discuss future collaboration, identification of entry points for university- government collaboration in climate finance, an MOU between the MoE and UR and main themes and collaborative areas, discussion on specific theme/topic for developing a concept note to the GCF (Global Climate Fund) and discussion on the draft roadmaps designed during the regional workshop in Kampala in May 2023.

The key outcomes from this country engagement meeting are the following:

- Country needs assessment: Rwanda's Climate Change Agenda and Investment Priorities have been defined in the second revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) for mitigation and adaptation for the period to 2030
- Project roadmap process that builds from the policy and institutional mapping, with emphasis on the country priorities for climate change mitigation and adaptation defining potential contributions, Uni-Govt MoU negotiations, implementation of the Uni-Gov MoU;
- The dialogue between University of Rwanda and the Ministry of Environment (MoE) to establish a collaboration framework culminated with the signing of a MoU on 23rd November 2023, where main themes and collaborative areas include (i) accessing climate and biodiversity finance, (ii) environment and climate change, (iii) biodiversity, ecosystem restoration and ecosystem services.
- Key entry points for collaboration include existing MoU between the MoE and UR; willingness of academic staff from University of Rwanda and government officials in joint capacity building and developing a concept note; existing country policies, needs and priorities in climate finance.
- Coordination and sharing of information between UR and government officials: participants to the meeting agreed to have an email mailing group and WhatsApp group for information and data sharing. Dr Myriam Mujawamariya will set up the WhatsApp group.
- Partner institutions also agreed for university-government collaboration in organising a writing workshop to develop a concept note to access more finance for climate change adaptation in Rwanda.

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