



Ministry of Environment



World
Wetlands Day
2 February 2022

Wetlands Action for People and Nature



Report

*Celebration of World Wetlands Day 2022 with
a guided high-level wetlands tour in the City of Kigali*

“Wetlands Action for People and Nature”



Feb 2022

REPORT

Rwanda Celebrated WORLD WETLANDS DAY on 2nd February 2022 through a guided high level tour in the wetlands of the City of Kigali *“Wetlands Action for People and Nature”*

1. Introduction

Every year on January 2nd, Rwanda joins the world in commemoration of the World Wetlands Day (WWD) to raise global awareness on the value of wetlands for humanity and the planet. In Rwanda, the celebration of WWD is an opportunity to build upon achievements attained in the protection and conservation of the environment especially the efforts invested to promote the wise use and rehabilitation of wetlands.

The theme for this year's WWD celebration is **“Wetlands Action for People and Nature”/ “Kwita ku Bishanga ni Ukwita ku Bantu n'Isi batuyeho”**. It is dedicated to raise awareness on wetlands values and call for action for the humanity to ensure that wetlands are conserved, sustainably used and those degraded are restored in order to achieve our global targets for climate, biodiversity and Sustainable Development Goals.

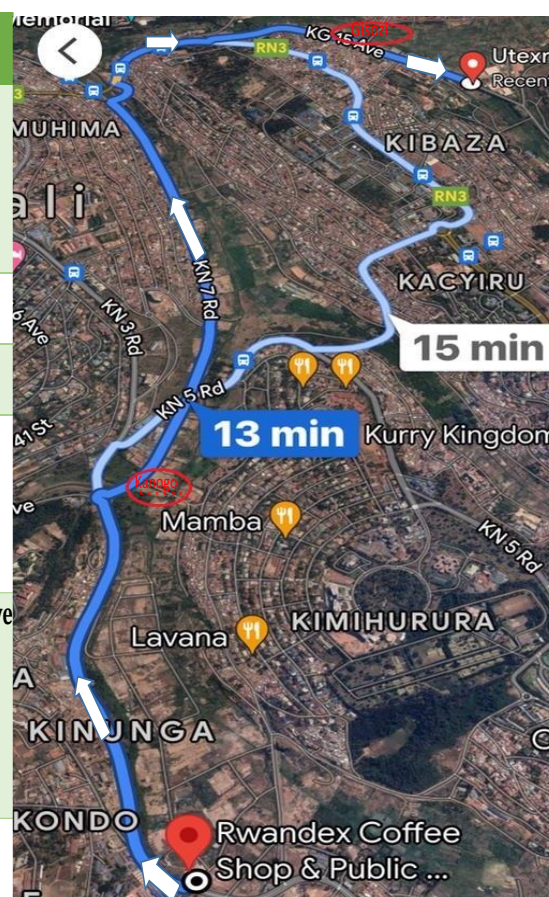
In this context, on Wednesday 2nd February 2022 from 9:00 am to 11:00 pm, Rwanda joined the World to celebrate WWD 2022 through a guided high-level tour in the wetlands of the City of Kigali; in Gikondo–Kibumba–Rugenge wetlands under RUDPII rehabilitation (see attached itinerary and agenda of the day). The aim of the wetland tour was to discuss on the current and emerging concrete actions including partnerships to scale investment in the sustainable use, management and restoration of degraded wetlands.

Hon. Minister of Environment Dr. Jeanne d'Arc MUJAWAMARIYA, Hon. Minister of Local Government Hon. GATABAZI Jean Marie Vianney were the guest of Honor in the event. Other high-level participants included Dr. MPABWANAMAGURU Merard the Vice Mayor in Charge of Urbanisation and Infrastructure in the City of Kigali (CoK), representatives from International organizations (World Bank, UNDP and GGGI) and National Environmental organizations representing the Wetland City Committee (ARCOS and RWCA) as well as Government Institutions. REMA represented by DDG Faustin MUNYAZIKWIYE briefed participants on RUDPII activities before guiding the wetland tour.



2. Itinerary and agenda of the day

Time	Activity/Session	Observation
9.00-9:20 am	Arrival at the starting point: Gikondo wetlands Rwandex/opposite coffee shop	- Illegal infrastructures and temporarily garden established in the area to be rehabilitated by RUDPII project
9.20-9.30	Welcome Remarks	DDG, REMA
9.30-10.45	Guided Tour in wetlands	MoE and REMA
	Stop point 1: Rugenge wetland Kanogo (near Petrol station)	- Petrol station still in place - Soil dumping - Tree nursery established illegally - Car Parking and washing
	Stop point 2: Kibumba wetland Gisozi-Gakinjoro-Utexrwa	Industrial and commercial building not yet relocated from wetland
10:45-11h00	Concluding remarks and way forward	MoE



3. Observed issues in the visited sites and recommendation made

N°	Site	Observation and Issues	Recommendations made
1.	Site 1: Starting point: Gikondo Wetland near Rwandex Coffee shop	1) Briefing participants on RUDPII activities	1. MINALOC requested to include a constructed lake in the feasibility study for Gikondo rehabilitation as it is claimed by many residents of CoK and will add value to the city beatification and eco-tourism.
		2) Commercial building owned by Mr GATARAYIHA/ KATABARWA Aimé. Despite many notifications addressed to him by the City of Kigali, the owner refused to remove the building from the wetlands (see-attached report from the CoK).	2. The CoK will remove the building and the owner will pay the removal cost. -The garden and Coffee shop were established temporarily by the CoK while waiting for the guidance from RUDPII feasibility study, which should be availed not later than June 2022.
2.	Site 2: Rugenge wetland Kanogo (near Petrol station)	3) Commercial building in place	3. The CoK will send the final notification to the owner

		4) Soil dumping and waste in the wetland and river	4. CoK to remove the plastic waste dumped in the river with immediate effect through umuganda; and REMA to increase wetlands monitoring
		5) Tree nursery established illegally owned by IMBUGITOSHYE Cooperative	5. Regarding Tree nursery illegally established in wetlands of CoK, MINALOC requested MoE to look for an appropriate place to put them because we all need flowers and garden plant in our home. CoK to register all tree nursery and know who work where and regulate them according the guideline for tree nursery established by MoE/RFA;
		6) Petrol station still in place	6. Regarding Petrol station still in place, CoK, MINICOM RDB, RURA will concert to speed up the proper way for their relocation as far as international investors are concerned ((see attached report for all concerned petrol stations))
		7) Car Parking and washing (near Car wash , china road)	7. The CoK will send the final notification letter to stop the parking in wetlands (see attached report for all concerned car parkings)
3.	Site 3: Kibumba wetland Gisozi-Gakinjoro- Utextrwa	8) AGAKIRIRO market expended over the wetland boundaries while it was initially established temporally for one year	8. The CoK should follow the wetland boundaries (GIS shapefiles) established under the current wetlands regulations to remove the market infrastructure established in the wetland
		9) Industrial and commercial building not yet relocated from wetland (from china parking to UTEXIRWA) Despite many notifications and extension period addressed to them by the City of Kigali, the owners have not yet remove the building from the wetlands (see-attached report from the CoK). 10) However some Industries were granted to be compensated while others are told to not be compensated	9. The CoK will remove the building and the owner will pay the removal cost. 10. MoE and MINICOM to follow up and give guidance on compensation issue. (See attached resolutions of the meeting organized by the CoK dated 29 January 2020 page 3 stating that no compensation will be allocated to infrastructures relocated from wetlands.

4. Conclusion

In her concluding remarks, Hon. Minister Mujawamariya thanked our participants who joint the wetlands visit in the CoK as we celebrate WWD 2022.

She requested every one contribution to make a better place to allow them fulfilling their services for human and function for the nature taking an example of Nyandungu Eco Park.

She recognized the support from international organizations partners like WB, UNDP among other for the environmental sustainability. 'She recalled that everyone can be a hero toward achieving our County target for sustainable development. "Hero is our dignity. Let us live in harmony with nature to keep our dignity" concluded Dr. Mujawamariya by wishing everyone a happy World Wetland Day.

5. Way forward

REMA in partnership with all participants and partners in wetland management and conservation will collaborate to ensure the implementation of recommendation from the high level guided wetlands tour in CoK.

Prepared by:



Theogene NGABOYAMAHINA
ECCMO/ Ramsar National Focal Point

Prepared by:

Rachael TUSHABE
AMEAMU

Approved by :

Juliet KABERA
Director General

