

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA
Ministry of Lands, Human Resettlement
and Environmental Protection (MINITERE)



P.O. Box. 3502 KIGALI

Tél. : 517560/82628

Fax : 82628

E-mail : minitere@rwanda1.com

CONFERENCE ON INTEGRATED EVALUATION AND
PLANNING FOR STRENGTHENING GOOD GOVERNANCE FOR
POVERTY REDUCTION IN RWANDA

Title :

*INTEGRATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN GOOD
GOVERNANCE FOR POVERTY REDUCTION*

Prepared by G. Protais KAREMERA
Executive Secretary

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INTEGRATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE GOOD GOVERNANCE FOR POVERTY REDUCTION

SUMMARY

Rwanda's natural resources such as land, forests, the fauna, water, etc., have been important sources of national income for a long time ; they have also been a source of revenue for families in terms of providing shelter, and activities in the field of agriculture, animal husbandry, fishing, tourism and energy production.

These resources have been constantly dwindling as a result of the perpetual demand for arable land, pasture, and energy for households. This has led to a progressive reduction of production leading to more acute famine and poverty.

The high demographic growth within a population which solely depends on agriculture and has no alternative sources of energy, coupled with the mountainous nature of Rwanda, puts too much pressure on the natural environmental resources (clearing the vegetation, causing soil erosion, impoverishing the soils and causing imbalance in the ecosystem). As a result, agricultural production which was a source of survival and wealth becomes impossible.

To contain this situation and achieve sustainable human development, a human centred development which does not only take into consideration today's generations but also the future generations, it is vital to protect the environment and to include this "environment" component in all activities and especially the development ones.

In order to achieve sustainable development and reduce hunger and poverty, the culture of respecting the environment should be integrated in national governance.

The awareness of the population and the consciousness of the political leadership leading to rational and concerted management of the land and the environment, is the only way to achieve sustainable development. For this to be achieved, there should be committed multidisciplinary institutions, to promote and modernize agriculture and livestock production and, at the same time, create non-agricultural jobs on a wide scale. Care must be taken, however, to ensure that the modernization of agriculture and the food processing industry that is bound to develop should not lead to environmental pollution. In the same vein, the elimination of wastes and the promotion of hygiene are key factors in promoting the health of the population, which is the workforce that will increase production. It is through this endeavour that the country shall reduce hunger and poverty.

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA
MINISTRY OF LANDS, SETTLEMENT
AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (MINITERE)
P.O. BOX 3502 KIGALI
Tel : 517560:82628
Fax : 82629
E-mail : minitere@rwandal.com

INTEGRATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE GOOD GOVERNANCE FOR POVERTY REDUCTION IN RWANDA.

I. INTRODUCTION

Since last year (2000), Rwanda has adopted the policy of decentralization. This was done because decentralization is considered as a road to good governance and, consequently, to sustainable development. The policy of decentralization will particularly help to avoid the concentration of power at the central level and to promote the effective participation of the population in decision making in the development process.

Governance is the exercise of authority on economic, political and administrative management of state affairs at all levels. Good Governance is notably characterised by participation, transparency and accountability. It is also characterised by efficiency and equity.

Good Governance ensures that political, social and economic priorities are defined as a result of a consensus of the whole society, ensuring that the ideas of the deprived and the vulnerable are taken into consideration in the distribution of the required resources for development.

Initiatives in the field of good governance, should have the objective of developing the required capacity, so as to attain the kind of development, that gives priority to the poor, promotes women, protects and regenerates the environment, creates employment and other means of subsistence : eventually creating sustainable development. (UNDP, 1994). Hence, Good Governance has three dimensions : Economic, Political and Administrative.

Economic governance, has important repercussions on equity, poverty and the quality of life. Political Governance is the process of decision making with regard to policy formulation, while administrative governance is the system of applying those policies.

A form of Good Governance, that includes these three dimensions, consequently defines the process and the structures that guide the political and socio-economic relations. It includes the Government but goes further and brings the private sector and civil society organizations into play. It mainly implies the efficiency with which the state satisfies the needs of its citizens.

The institutions of good governance in those three fields (the Government, the civil society and the private sector) must be conceived in such a way that they contribute to sustainable human development in creating political, legal, economic and social conditions that lead to poverty reduction, creation of jobs, protection of the environment and the promotion of women.

It is in this context that this essay, attempts to analyse the role of environmental management in good governance for poverty reduction in Rwanda.

II. THE ENVIRONMENT –CURRENT SITUATION

II. 1. GENERAL FRAMEWORK

A sustainable human development has five components which have direct impacts on the lives of the poor and vulnerable people : accountability, cooperation, equity, sustainability, and security.

Regarding sustainability, this mainly refers to satisfying the needs of the present generation without compromising the right of future generations to be safe from poverty and destitution and to get the most out of their basic potential.

The problem of Rwanda is particularly due to the imbalance between natural resources (arable land, quality of water, woody vegetation etc) and the urgent needs of a rapidly increasing population which wants better living conditions in general, which has led to an excessive demand for arable lands which are limited, and for water and wood which are becoming gradually scarce.

The Rwandan economy mainly depends on primary agricultural products, that are insufficient in quality and quantity, with highly fluctuating prices in a context of very low investments. The present systems of exploiting agriculture are very traditional and archaic; this coupled with poverty and an ever increasing population, leads to wastage of land and other natural resources.

The ecosystem is affected, the economic potential is handicapped and progressively, soil fertility is reduced, which hampers sustainable economic growth.

The high demographic growth has led to overpopulation and to the overexploitation of arable lands. The peasants attack marginal areas and in so doing destroy, sometimes in an irreversible way, important parts of the ecologically fragile ecosystems, such as natural reserves, mountains, swamps and lakes which have an economic potential.

Since agriculture is a vital sector of the Rwandan economy, it should be more performing, sustainable and environment friendly. Capacity building with a view to

promoting good governance should support the objective of taking into account the environment in all developmental activities.

II. 2. CURRENT STATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION.

Important movements of people and cattle, since 1990, have seriously affected the environment. This has led to increasing deforestation and the protected areas have been encroached upon. Forests, for example, have reduced by 70 % between 1958 and 1996 due to bush clearing. The mountain forests of Gishwati and Mukura are disappearing; 86% and 90 %, of their respective surfaces were destroyed in 1996, while the hunting reserve of Mutara, has completely disappeared. The same demographic pressure, threatens the natural forest of the Volcanos National Park, which is a fragile ecological zone and the natural habitat of mountain gorillas.

The surface area of natural zones has declined from 510.000 ha, in 1958, to 447.900 ha in 1985; a loss of 65.000 ha, which is equivalent to 12 % of the initial surface area. It has catastrophically moved from 446.800 ha in 1990 to 193.510 ha in 1999, a regression of 62 % in 40 years.

92 % of Rwandan families use wood, as their source of energy, while 31,4 % use it as their source of light . Furthermore, above 60 % of the urban population use charcoal as their source of energy.

The Rwandan flora, has 699 plant species that are known as medicinal (Troupin, 1978), but the population pressure on forests is leading to their progressive extinction.

The massive slaughter of cattle in many parts of the country during the genocide, continues to deprive the soils of important nutritive substances that were obtained from manure. There is also the fact that while 63,2 % of cultivated land, and 92,8 % previously uncultivated agricultural lands were not protected in 1984, this situation has remained practically the same after the tragic events in the country from 1990 to 1994. As a result of the population pressure on land, the family agricultural surface area reduced to 0,6 ha ; a critical threshold under which, the agricultural activities can not satisfy the society's food needs. **This has brought about hunger and poverty in the country.**

II. 3. SUMMARY OF THE MAIN ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

The major environmental challenges facing Rwanda can be grouped into three components:

- The imbalance between the population, the environment and development;
- The energy crisis;
- Pollution.

Therefore, the following major problems should constantly be borne in mind :

- Population pressure on resources;
- Excessive subdivision of land;
- Massive deforestation;
- Loss of fertility due to erosion and overexploitation of soils;
- Disappearance of animal and/or plant species;
- Disappearance of, or imbalance in the ecosystems;
- Accelerated reduction of the vegetative cover (desertification);
- Huge deficit of wood energy;
- Silting up and/or drying up of swamps;
- Draining away and/or disappearance of rivers and lakes;
- Climatic disturbances;
- Poor location of industries ;
- Lack of viable ecological management of family garbage, as well as liquid, solid or gaseous wastes ;
- Increase of respiratory diseases, diarrhoea, and others;
- Increasing impoverishment of the population in rural areas;
- etc.

Table 1 : *Evolution of natural forests surface areas and wooded savannah (in ha) from 1960 to 1999.*

Forests/National Parks	Period						Rate of regression between 1960 and 1999 %
	1960	1970	1980	1990	1996	1999	
Nyungwe	114,025	108,800	97,000	97,000	94,500	89,150	21.8
Gishwati	28,000	28,000	23,000	8,800	3,800	< 1,000	99.6
Mukura	3,000	3,000	2,000	2,000	1,600	< 1,000	66.7
Icangoes National Park	34,000	16,000	15,000	14,000	12,760	12,760	62.2
Akagera National Park	267,000	267,000	267,000	241,000	220,000	90,000	66.3
Mutara Hunting zones	64,000	45,000	45,000	34,000	23,000	0	100.00
Valleys and swamps	150,000	150,000	90,000	50,000	20,000	-	86.7
TOTAL	660,125	617,800	539,000	446,800	382,660	193,010	62.2 %

III. INTEGRATING THE ENVIRONMENT IN GOOD GOVERNANCE

III. 1. OBJECTIVES

III. 1.1. GENERAL OBJECTIVE

The main objective of integrating the environment in the policy of Good Governance is to prepare the ground for a sustainable development in Rwanda, through a general, coherent framework that reconciles population growth, increased production and environmental protection.

III. 1. 2. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES :

The specific objectives of that process are as follows :

- To show that the degradation of the environment contributes to the reduction/stagnation of agricultural production leading to increased poverty in the country .

- To sensitize the population, policy makers and all the other stakeholders, on the potential the environmental risks if the pressure on natural resources is maintained.
- To propose environmental friendly strategies to increase production so as to increase incomes and reduce poverty, mainly in rural areas.

III. 2. STRATEGIC ACTIONS

III. 2.1. MISSION OF THE MINISTRY OF LANDS

The Ministry of lands, settlements and environmental protection has the mission to ensure a rational management of lands, to foster the development of a viable habitat and to protect and conserve the environment for a sustainable human development in Rwanda.

In order to fulfill this mission, the Ministry has :

- formulated policies and laws governing land, habitat and the protection of the environment;
- coordinated and followed up the implementation of those policies, and respect for the laws relating to habitat and environmental protection ;
- prepared and supervised management programs for land use, habitat and environmental protection;
- carried out environmental impact studies, given advice on environmental issues to those involved in development projects, while continuously supervising the state of the environment. In the fulfillment of its mission, the Ministry has always been guided by the concern for effectiveness, efficiency and the strict respect for the environment.

Within the framework of its strategic planning for sustainable development, the Ministry of Lands has worked out three programmes for poverty reduction, in connection with rational land management and environmental protection.

These are the three priority programmes :

- **The Land Planning and Management Programme;**
- **The Habitat Planning and Supervision Programme;**
- **The Environmental Planning and Supervision Programme;**

III. 2.2. STRATEGIES TO BE ADOPTED

In order to mainstream the environment in all developmental activities, Agenda 21 points out 7 priority areas in the fight against hunger and poverty.

These are the following :

1. Revitalizing growth through sustainability;
2. Promoting a sustainable quality life;
3. Effective management of human settlements;
4. Effective use of resources;
5. Equitable and rational use of regional and world resources;

- 6. Rational management of chemical substances and wastes;**
7. Promoting the population's participation and accountability.

These are the foundation for concrete action programmes which will promote a sustainable use of natural resources, leading to a sustainable human development in a viable and healthy environment.

A country's capacity to carry out the transition towards a sustainable development, depends to a great extent on its own institutional and professional capacity.

Since national capacity building is also a central element in all the programmes of Agenda 21. Rwanda should put in place, and strengthen institutions dealing with environmental issues, the country should create and strengthen NGO's, women's and youth organisations to preserve the environment. Environment programmes should be included in the school syllabus and environmental issues should be included in the country's macro-economic planning.

From the sectorial point of view, the Ministry of Lands, MINITERE, will work hard to deliver the expected outputs in its three priority programmes of poverty reduction, environmental protection and conservation.

A. Habitat Planning and Supervision Sub-programme

The strategic activities are as follows :

- To formulate a national master plan and work out global allocation and land use plans;
- To establish a National Land Registry;
- To set up a National Land Information Centre;
- To work out a strategy to implement the land policy and the laws governing the land system in Rwanda ;

B. Habitat Planning and Supervision Sub-Programme :

The strategic activities are :

- To work out a strategy to implement the habitat policy and the law governing habitat;
- To effectively sensitize all Rwandans to the National Habitat Policy;
- To continue to settle vulnerable households in the North – Western region;
- To build more and more basic infrastructure in the "Imidugudu" villages;
- To study accessible financial mechanisms for the habitat;
- To continue supporting village trade associations to produce local construction materials ;
- To promote income generating activities in the "Imidugudu "villages.

C. Environmental Protection and Conservation.

The strategic activities are :

- To formulate an environment policy;

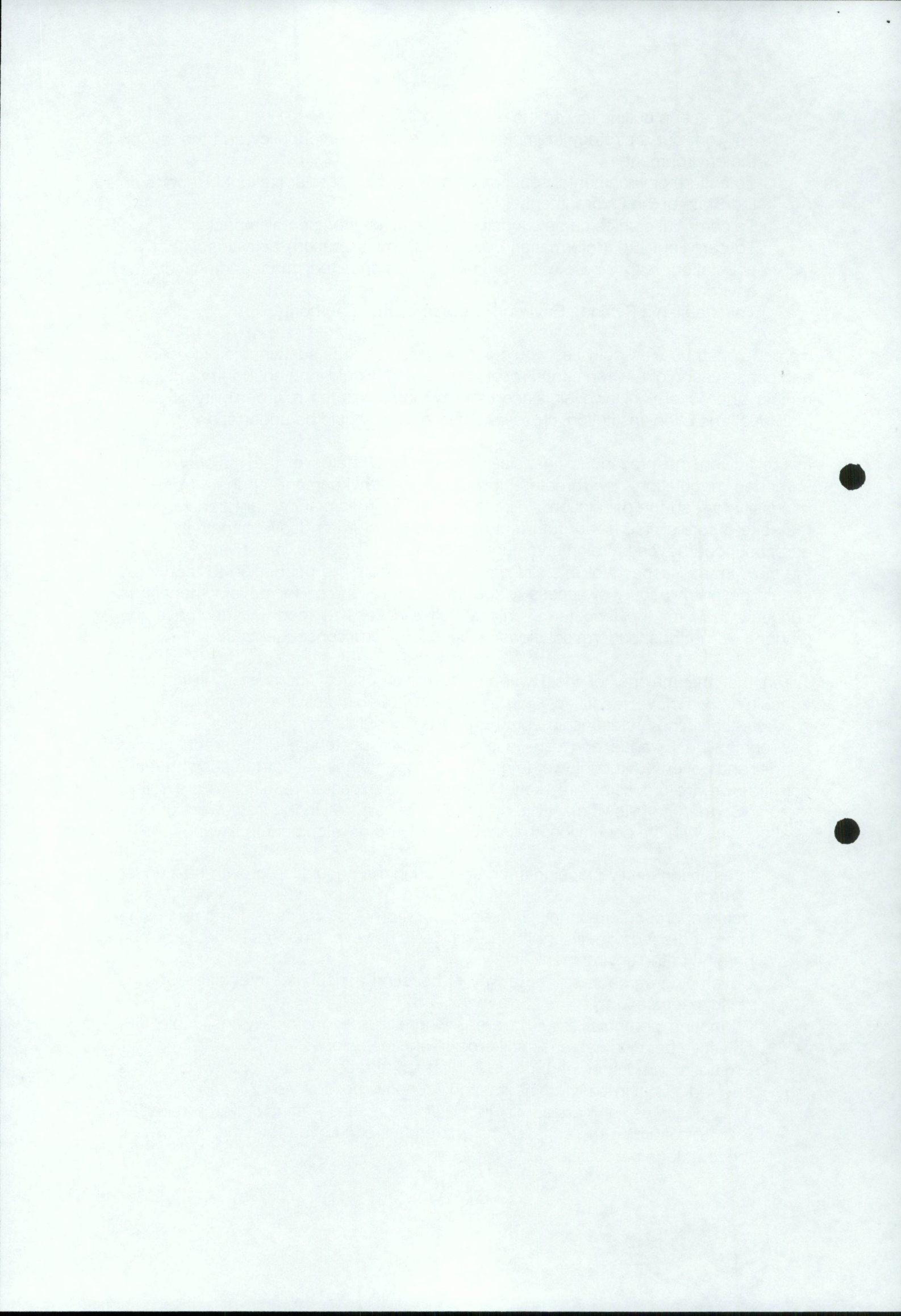
- To enact an outline law on the environment;
- To work out a strategy to implement the environmental policy and the law on the environment;
- To ensure environmental supervision and produce regular National Reports on the State of the Environment;
- To carry out studies on development projects' environmental impacts;
- To carry out IEC (Information/Education/Communication) activities within the population with a view to promoting a concerted management of the environment;
- To establish a Rwanda Environment Management Authority.

Carrying out these few activities would not be enough for the sustainable protection and conservation of environmental resources, neither would it be enough to eradicate hunger and poverty. However, since the environment is the responsibility of every individual and every institution, cross-cutting activities should be undertaken.

In fact, given the precarious financial and nutritional status of the majority of the Rwandan population, the greatest threat to the environment springs from the necessity to feed the population. Trying to protect an animal or plant sanctuary for the sake of foreign tourists or future generations is not an endeavour that will easily attract support beyond foreign communities or the civil service. This is why we are of the view that all aspects of this strategy which will help the population to feed itself should be given priority of access to the country's resources for development. It is our view that, for the long term, only a better access to food will decrease the tendency to go for short term solutions ignoring long term consequences.

Given that the majority of the Rwandan population strictly derives its living from agriculture, we have identified several priority strategic activities which take into consideration the relationship between the population, agriculture and the environment in Rwanda and can, ipso facto, jointly contribute to the reduction of hunger and poverty. Although we do not have enough empirical data to show that the activities we are proposing are likely to produce the expected results, we are still of the opinion that the following activities should be considered in the framework of their relationships with the population, the environment and development in Rwanda :

- Intensifying family planning in order to bring the population growth rate under control;
- Using appropriate technology in agricultural production : developing and using improved seeds, fertilizers and pesticides ; however, their use should not be harmful to the environment;
- Developing agro-forestry as a way of boosting agricultural intensification and soil conservation;
- Promoting perennial crops in areas where it is economically justifiable, the objective being to decrease soil erosion on steep slopes;
- Promoting irrigation and crops on steep terraces in regions where it is advisable from the environmental and economic point of view;
- Judiciously using marshlands in order to increase agricultural production without disturbing the ecosystems and endangering hydro-electric reserves or the long term productive capacity of soils;



- Intensifying animal husbandry so as to produce the required animal proteins to improve soil fertility; economic incentives should also be used to promote agro-forestry;
- Managing natural reserves in order to improve their economic yield without unnecessarily endangering the environment;
- Developing tourism so as to create economic incentives to protect natural reserves and generate foreign current for the importation of food;
- Stimulating small scale and craft industries in order to create jobs, reduce pressure on land and increase purchasing power and access to food;
- Promoting economic activities in the vicinity of protect areas with the view to discouraging their destruction and deterring poaching .

It must be pointed out that we have only proposed economically and environmentally healthy and sound activities. None of these activities is exclusively more desirable or more efficient with regard to the linkages between the population, agriculture and the environment in Rwanda. Most of them can be misused hampering progress instead of promoting it. Consequently, the role of the Directorate for Environmental Protection in the Ministry of Lands-MINITERE- should be to ensure that only the environmentally sound approaches are approved.

III. 3. SECTORIAL ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES FOR THE 2000 – 2004 PERIOD

III. 3.1. PREVIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS

A. Land Planning and Management Programme :

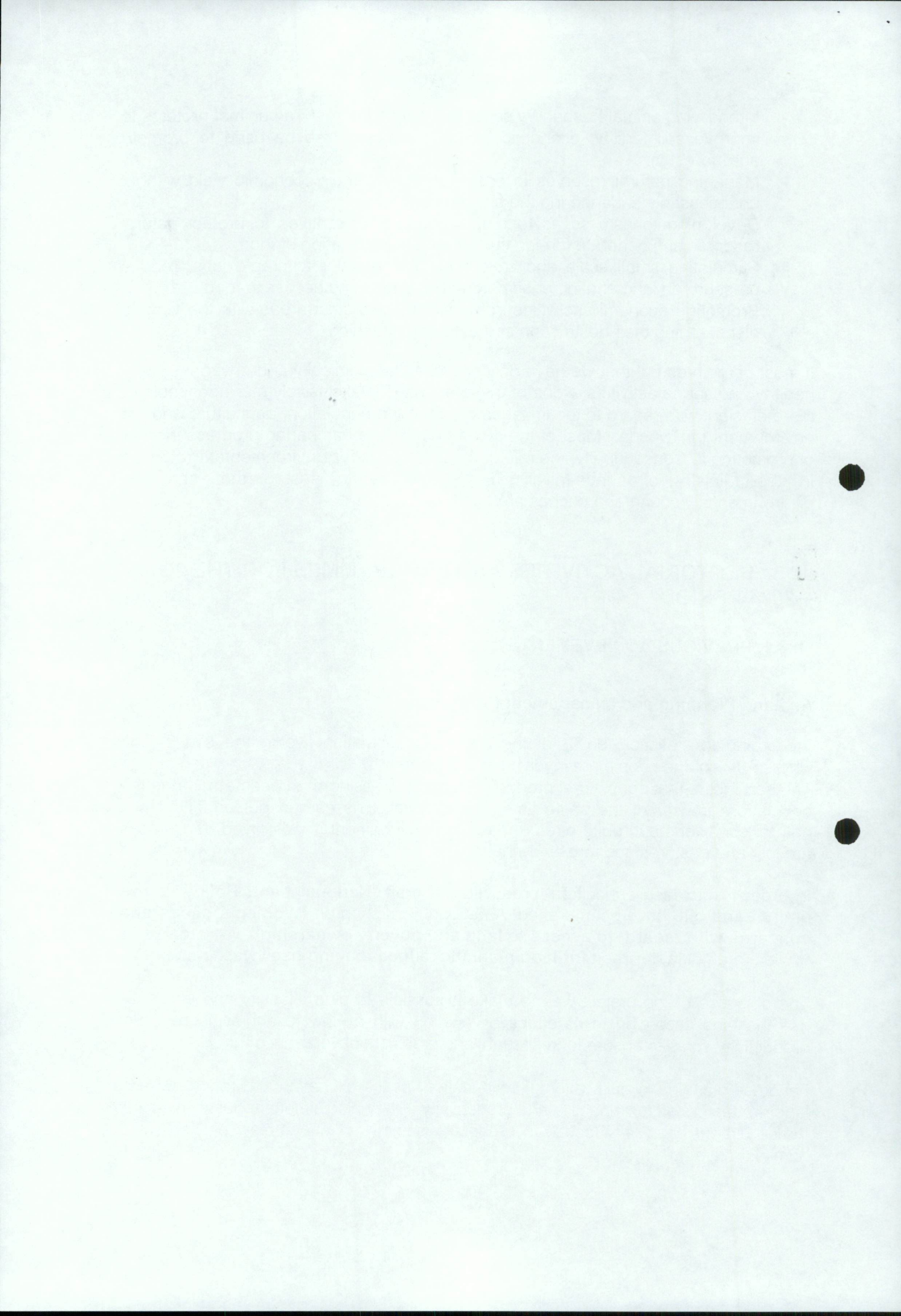
According to statistics, 95 % of the Rwandan population live in the countryside where 90 % of the people are involved in subsistence.

The sad fact is that agricultural production is not increasing at the same pace as the population growth. At the same time, this production is carried out under difficult natural conditions and quite often, the natural environment is destroyed, fertile soils are lost and pastures and forests dwindle.

In order to increase agricultural production, a draft "**National Land Policy**" and a draft "**Land bill**" have been drafted. A national workshop on "**Women's needs and concerns with regard to access to land and poverty ownership**" was organized. While a draft "**Master plan for land planning, allocation and use**" was formulated.

The objective of the project was to make it possible to plan, classify and efficiently use the land according to its effective vocation with a view to achieving optimum productivity so as to ensure food security and eradicate poverty once for all.

Land use planning, classification of soils, as well as the allocation and rational use of land are factors of sustainability and productivity. They also simultaneously cover the three dimensions of Good Governance, namely : economic, political and administrative governance.



It will be necessary however, to review these policies on a regular basis, i.e. the policies governing land and agriculture as well as those relating to marketing and agricultural modernization. Due to all these constraints, increasing agricultural supply will mainly depend on the marginal productivity of soils.

Nevertheless, on top of soil productivity, the evolution of agricultural productivity will, in the medium and the long term, widely depend on the adoption of supplementary policies designed to support agriculture and land management (credit facilities, agricultural inputs, social services, storage and transport infrastructure, etc.). In this framework, land management programmes shall be strong indicators of Good Governance and will help to reduce poverty.

However, the agricultural sector will not prosper unless non-agricultural jobs are created both upstream and downstream both with the view to relieve the pressure on the sector and provide complementarity to the agricultural sector.

B. Habitat Planning and Supervision Programme :

Access to a decent and sustainable shelter is an aspect of equity and it is a fundamental need. Equity means increasing capacities and providing more and more possibilities; and, this is not solely limited to incomes. For instance, a system of education which is accessible to all is an equity issue, so is primary health care for all.

Planning and providing a sustainable habitat, covers the socio-economic dimension of Good Governance and has far-reaching repercussions on equity, poverty and the quality of life.

In the specific case of Rwanda, the scattered habitat coupled with the increasing population pressure, has led to a serious subdivision and overexploitation of land leading to a miserable, barely productive extensive agriculture resulting in the almost complete destruction of the environment.

In this situation of a high population growth and limited arable lands, The envisaged solutions, to set more land free and make it available for agriculture, are as follows :

Adopting the grouped habitat, "Imidugudu" system as a first step :

The "imidugudu" policy makes it possible not only to make more land available for other activities, but it also has other important advantages, such as , for instance, easy access to basic infrastructure like hospitals, health centres, schools, cultural and leisure centres, potable water, the trading centre, electricity supply, etc., reconciliation will be enhanced, there will be more non agricultural jobs, joint management of rain water, processing of wastes and looking after public gardens and parks.

Secondly, once the agricultural lands have been set free , it will be absolutely necessary, if the worst is to be avoided, to undertake activities aimed at conserving the soils and preventing their degradation.

It should be borne in mind that, as more arable lands are freed as a result of the grouped settlements policy, there will be an increased awareness of the inescapable necessity to efficiently manage environmental resources. There should be no illusion that there will be room for manoeuvre the long term will have to be integrated into our essential cultural values, priority should not be given to the short term alone, environmental protection should not be considered as a luxury which has nothing to do with economic growth. A hard, concerted and collective struggle against the degradation of the potential for agricultural production will also have to be carried out.

Under this programme, MINITERE has made the following achievements :

- A draft **national habitat policy** and a **draft bill on habitat** have been formulated ;
- **More than 170,000 houses have been built** in 2,800 grouped "Imidugudu" village sites;
- **370,000 households without decent housing** have been recorded;
- **Basic infrastructure** has now been installed in various "Imidugudu" villages;
- **12,000 households are being settled** in Gishwati area ;
- A **thematic consultation document** on resettlement has been worked out and it is under discussion.

C. Environmental Protection and Conservation Programme.

As it was said earlier, the promotion of sustainable housing in "Imidugudu" villages will free more land for agricultural purposes; at the same time, the efficient management of land will make it possible to protect the environment more efficiently, to use land in a more rational manner and to increase soil productivity and promote a sustainable human development.

In this perspective, the various programmes aimed at environmental protection/conservation, land planning and management and at promoting a sustainable habitat will enable MINITERE to lay emphasis on some critical aspects of human development, such as eliminating poverty and creating jobs. The programmes will also make it possible to highlight other viable means of subsistence, protecting and regenerating the environment and promoting women.

Capacity building with a view to protecting the environment, efficiently managing land, promoting a decent and sustainable habitat will have to be undertaken if we want Good Governance to prevail all over the country ultimately leading to poverty eradication.

In order to achieve this, the Ministry of Lands has embarked on country-wide **public awareness campaigns** designed to promote conscious protection and conservation of the environment. The Ministry has also undertaken other activities such as :

- **The National Environment Policy** and " **The Environment draft bill**"
- The policy on the management and rational use of marshlands;

- The National strategy and plan of action for the conservation of biodiversity in Rwanda;
- The National Resources Protection Project;
- The Protection and integrated management of critical ecosystems;
- The Proposal to establish a **Rwanda Environmental Management Authority**.

III. 3.2. PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR THE 2002-2004 PERIOD

A. Planning and Management of the Land Programme :

The proposed priority activities are as follows :

- Working out the implementation strategy for the National Land Policy and the Land Law in Rwanda (B.O.) ;
- Land Planning and maintenance (B.O.);
- Implementing the Master Plan and the general plans governing land allocation and use (European Union Funding B.D.);
- Establishing a National Land Register B.D.);
- Establishing a National Land Information Centre (B.D.).

B. " Habitat Planning and Supervision

The proposed priority activities are as follows :

- Working out the strategy to implement the National Habitat Policy and for the Habitat Law (B.O.)
- Carrying out a study on how to promote the use of local construction materials (B.O.);
- Training 227 land planning and survey technicians to work on "imidugudu" sites (B.O.);
- Resettling 8,000 vulnerable households that have been moved from Gishwati (in 2002 – B.O.);
- Resettling 2,000 newly repatriated families(B.O.);
- Supporting 200 trade associations in the production of local building materials (B.O.);
- Supporting the resettlement of 370,000 vulnerable families which have been identified (B.D.);
- Supporting the installation of a rain water collection system for 180,000 households living in "imidugudu" villages (B.D.);
- Supporting the establishment of alternative energy systems for 10,000 households living in "imidugudu" (B.D.);
- Training 1,000 "imidugudu" village based associations in project planning and implementation of income generating micro-projects (B.D.).

C. " Environment Protection and Conservation Programme" :

The proposed priority activities are as follows:

- Formulating a National Environment Policy and a Blue Print Law on the environment (B.O.);
- Carrying out an environment awareness campaign (B.O.);

- Carrying out an annual evaluation of the state of the environment (B.O.).

III. 4. CONSTRAINTS AND MEANS

III. 4.1. MEANS

III. 4.1.1. HUMAN RESOURCES :

Protecting the environment is everybody's responsibility. Every member of the Rwandan population should be aware of the necessity to protect the environment whatever activity he/she may be involved in.

MINITERE is confident that the Ministry's staff, in particular, and the active population at large will promote this spirit. Development projects promoters and all stakeholders should integrate environmental issues in their projects

However, mainstreaming the environment in good governance is the specific responsibility of the country's political leaders, jointly with the administrative authorities, at all levels.

III. 4.1.2. FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL RESOURCES

In the framework of sectorial activities, MINITERE relies on the ordinary and the development budget which will be allocated to the Ministry, depending on the country's financial capacity. More funds are expected from various donors who usually assist the Ministry through its programmes.

III. 4.2. CONSTRAINTS

III. 4.2.1. GENERAL CONSTRAINTS

The major general constraints which are encountered in the implementation of these programmes are mainly related to the Rwandese culture which is not generally conducive to the respect of the environment. The other constraints spring from agricultural techniques which make erosion easier. In addition, then there is the mountainous relief of Rwanda and the poverty of the population which makes them attack all natural resources in the search for survival; finally, there is no guidance for the population at large.

III. 4.2.2. SPECIFIC CONSTRAINTS

In the fulfillment of its mission, which is to *«ensure a rational management of land and to foster the development of a viable habitat and supervise the conservation and protection of the environment for a sustainable human development»*, the Ministry of Lands encounters a number of specific constraints which are due to the inadequate financial and technical means the Ministry receives every year and to the qualitatively and quantitatively inadequate human resources at its disposal, especially in the environmental field and in technical studies.

III. 5. EVALUATION MECANISMS

The stakeholders are :

- MINITERE through ;- the Division of Environmental Impact Studies; the Inspection and Evaluation Division, and through the Planning, Follow up and Evaluation Division.
- Rwanda Environment and Management Authority
- Decentralized entities through their environment departments;
- Development project promoters.

These institutions can only be efficient if they work in multidisciplinary teams, especially under the coordination of a national environment monitoring officer who would be answerable for the evaluation system; this official would also have to work in close cooperation with the National Poverty Monitoring Unit in order to regularly evaluate the status of the ultimate objective which is the reduction of poverty in Rwanda.

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The vast majority of the Rwandan population delives its living from agriculture. However, the core problem facing agriculture is the extensive method of land use which is compounded by the constant decrease of available arable land per household and per equivalent adult in the household.

The purpose of this paper is to prepare the ground for a sustainable development in Rwanda through a coherent global framework which will reconcile increased agricultural production and cottage industries with environmental protection.

However, in today's context, agricultural production can only increase if more land is brought under cultivation. Population pressure on land leads to the cultivation of wider areas making the degradation of natural resources more acute.

Under, the circumstances, our proposed strategies to fight hunger and eradicate poverty can be summarized as follows :

1. Curbing population growth;
2. Managing land areas, rationally, according to their vocation;
3. Promoting grouped settlements in order to free more land; creating non agricultural jobs;
4. Regionalizing and intensifying agriculture and animal production;
5. Capacity building, so as to promote information and communication technologies;
6. Adopting innovative and appropriate technologies that can be well understood by peasants;
7. Protecting the environment within the framework of a concerted management of space;
8. Establishing a favourable macro-economic framework;

9. Promoting regional and international cooperation for the protection of the world's environment;
10. Implementing the international environmental conventions which Rwanda has signed and ratified .

Done at Kigali, 14/09/2001