

Rwanda: Institutional Arrangements and roadmap to building a robust National MRV system

Rwanda Environment Management Authority KG 7AVE Kigali Rwanda

1. Introduction

As a signatory to the UNFCCC, Rwanda has demonstrated its willingness and has proved itself a responsible member of the global community to achieve global solutions on climate change. In an effort to fulfill reporting requirements under Article 12 of UNFCCC, Rwanda submitted to the UNFCCC its initial national communication in 2005, its second in 2012 and third in 2018. Rwanda is among the **64 parties** that have submitted their Third National Communication (TNC) and one of **only 18 parties** from Africa.

2. Existing MRV in the context of National Communications and BUR

2.1 Arrangement for data collection and GHG emission measurement and reporting

The existing institutional arrangement outlines the roles and responsibilities of different institutions and proposes the stakeholders for each of the selected sectors. The Ministry of Environment is the key institution in charge of developing policies and programmes related to environment and climate change. Under the Ministry of Environment, Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) is the regulatory agency tasked to coordinate the implementation of those policies and programmes. Key institutions in charge of gathering and processing data are identified, which are then tasked to provide the information to the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA), which reports to the UNFCCC. A typical institutional arrangement developed for the TNC is illustrated on Figure 1.

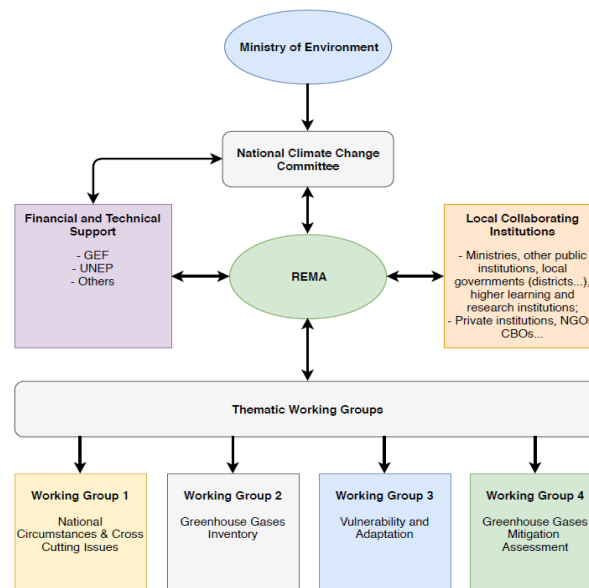


Figure 1: Institutional Arrangements for preparation of the Third National Communication

Various institutions contributing to GHG emissions measurement and reporting include various ministries, governmental institutions and private sector.

Under REMA, the Department of Climate Change and International Obligations (DCCIO) is responsible for addressing climate change related initiatives and implementation of multi-lateral environmental agreements. DCCIO in close collaboration with the Single Project Implementation Unit (SPIU) of REMA is responsible for coordination projects on Rwanda's GHG emissions measurement and reporting under various conventions as well as capacity building initiatives implemented with UNEP DTU partnership and Conservation International.

The reports are developed from the collected data by four thematic groups led by National experts selected from from the University of Rwanda. The four core thematic working groups were formed in line with the structure of national communications i.e. National Circumstances and Crosscutting issues, Greenhouses inventory, Vulnerability and Adaptation and Mitigation Assessment (**Figure 1**). Considering the importance of the National GHG inventory report, a specific arrangement was developed, which also led by national experts from the University of Rwanda. It consists of four groups based on the IPCC guidelines requirement, viz., AFOLU, Energy, IPPU and Waste.

2.2 Arrangement for data and GHG emission reduction verification

The collected data is regularly checked, updated and validated *via* various stakeholders meeting in which the experts in various sectors clean and update the collected data to ensure transparency and accuracy. Other relevant institutions that have a contributing role for the data collection and processing, including on the transformational change impacts of the selected mitigation policies and sectoral experts. To ensure the accuracy of the reported data, the thematic working groups are overseen by a National Climate Change committee (NCCC), which is composed of members representing key institutions as well as those in the TNC Working groups.

The GHG emission reductions, which are generally translated into various national policies, are verified through various policies assessments at sectoral level. The most important institutions at sectoral level regarding policy assessment fall within the Ministry of Infrastructure (MININFRA) for the energy, waste, transport and building sectors while those within Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC) and Ministry of Trade and Industry (MINICOM) are key in the building and industry sectors, respectively.

3. Roadmap to building a robust national MRV system

3.1 Legal framework

Despite the progress witnessed in the previous years for building a strong and institution arrangement for MRV, Rwanda is still striving to build a robust MRV system, which will ensure a proper reporting under the Paris agreement and under international obligations. In this line, the country is developing a Ministerial Order on determination of procedures for preparation of national report on climate change and responsibilities of organs that are involved. The latter will determine the procedures for preparation of national report on climate change and responsibilities of organs that are involved. It will also ensure a proper reporting and verification of the programs containing measures of mitigation and adaptation to climate change and their implementation.

3.2 Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT)

The Initiative for Climate Action Transparency targets strengthening national institution capacity to meet enhanced transparency requirements under the Paris Agreement through development of a methodological framework for assessing the impacts of climate policies and actions and strengthening national MRV capacity; with focus on energy related sectors. The latter documents all the reporting methodologies and related checklists for mitigation option development and verification.

3.3 Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT)

The capacity building Initiative for Transparency projects were initiated to help strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of non-Annex I parties to meet enhanced transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement. The Rwanda CBIT Project was approved in August 2019 and will be implemented up to February 2021. The target areas of work to be implemented through CBIT are:

- Strengthening the National GHG Inventory system
- Capacity building of key stakeholders to collect, process and feed data into the GHG emissions inventory system
- Development of an Integrated Platform for Data Sharing and Policy/Decision Making

The implementation of the above programmes and other related action will lead to a robust MRV system and help in the building a national MRV system for successful implementation of Rwanda's NDC, and meeting transparency requirements under the Paris Agreement.