



1. STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT BURUNDI

1. 1. PREFACE

- In Burundi, the impact of population on the environment is no longer doubtful and alarming signals light up in the country.
- In the north, the land is severely degraded;
- South of the country, deforestation reached an unprecedented rate;
- In the East, a region that was there a few years ago considered for forestry, cropping, clearing and overgrazing was a cause of bare land;

(Continued)

- In the West, long deforested region carries no protection of agricultural land;
- In the center, the complete disappearance of wetlands, cultivation for centuries and application of chemical fertilizers resulted in a degradation of the more pronounced country's farmland.
- To these are added the environmental problems of water pollution problems, accentuated degradation of biodiversity and the unhealthy human environment.

1.2. PROFILE OF BURUNDI

- Burundi is a country located in central Africa.
- From a geomorphological point of view, Burundi is divided into five ecological zones.
- In Burundi, the farm has an average of 0.5 ha per household and is a subsistence agriculture. Animal resources are also characterized by low productivity and low income

(Cont'd)

- Burundi has abundant water resources with good rainfall;
- The forms of energy consumed in Burundi are wood (charcoal represents 95.3% of the overall energy balance);
- Natural ecosystems include forests, savannahs, bushes, low meadows, marshes and other aquatic environments most of which is distributed in 14 protected areas with an area of about 157 662,85 or 5.6% the country's total.

(Cont'd)

- The artificial forests occupy 128,375 ha or about 4.6% of the national area.
- On the economic front, the situation is very worrying. Over 60% of the population lives below the poverty line.
- The gross primary school enrollment rate is low.
- Habitat in Burundi remains precarious and fragile.

1.3. ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN BURUNDI

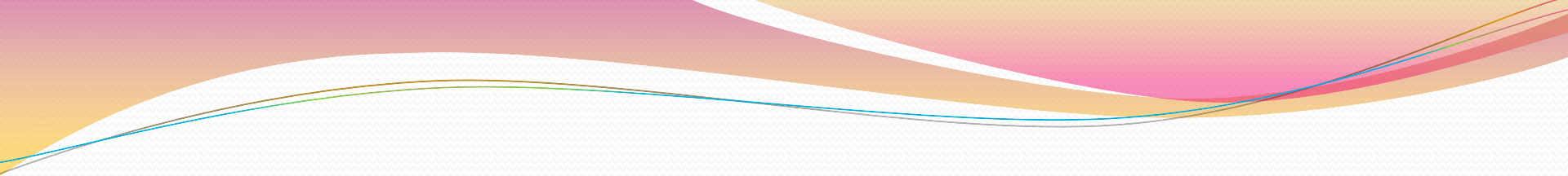
- In Burundi, the lack of awareness on environmental issues organized by repetitive wars mortgaged human resource management challenge by reducing investment related to land and increasing deforestation.
- Moreover, the obvious environmental code of conduct without urbanization system is causing unhealthy cities.
- In sum, environmental problems are:
 - Land degradation;
 - Loss of biodiversity;
 - Unhealthy environment;
 - Climate change.

1.3.1. Land degradation

- The overexploitation of soils, small farmhouses of less than one hectare and the absence of fallow period have led to land degradation.
- This obviously contributes to the decline in agricultural productivity and endangering the forest ecosystem by clearing crop.
- Population pressures and population movements have led to practical use of marginal land.
- Thus, the major causes of land degradation are inappropriate land use, land smallness and overgrazing.



**4. ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN
ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS AND
ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION**



To raise the awareness of the people and their commitment to concrete actions for environmental protection requires an environmental education that must use a variety of information including:

- scientific data on the environment,
- Data on the economy,
- data on the lifestyle of the people,
- political decisions, laws and regulations, etc.

The collection of this information using several tools including surveys and studies on various aspects of the environment, the different lifestyles of populations, participatory diagnosis on various sectors and geographical information system GIS.

(Suite)

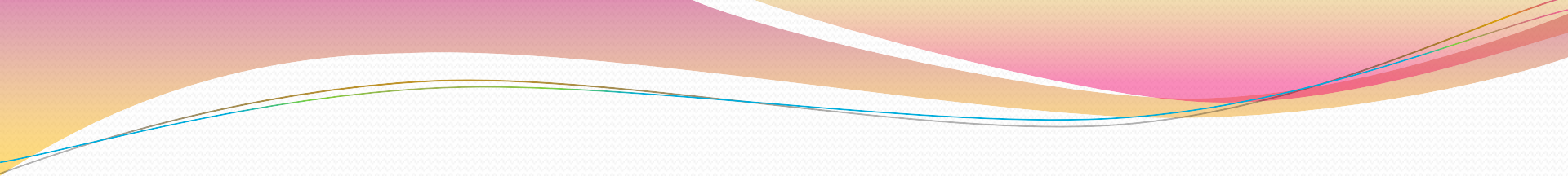
- The information collected is disseminated through four channels:
- Information delivered through the documentation centers;
- Information disseminated by oral vote by facilitators or educators or media;
- Information disseminated through exhibitions;
- Information disseminated through clearinghouses and databases.

Documentation centers and information dissemination

- The centers of documentation and dissemination of information most widespread in Burundi are libraries that contain important information about the environment both nationally and globally.
- The target groups concerned by this information are the State executives, students of universities, agents and managers in various projects.



5. FUTURE PLANS OF ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS

- 
- In Burundi, an Environmental Information Centre was established to collect and centralize all existing environmental data, but is not functional.
 - As future plan of environment statistics, the Burundian Government is considering making functional this center by providing it with all the necessary means so that it can perform many of these functions.
 - If funding is available, ISTEERBU in collaboration with the Ministry in charge of environmental planning to do an assessment of the environment in Burundi.

Je vous remercie

Thank you

pour votre aimable
attention

