



# KIGALI

State of Environment and  
Outlook Report 2013





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## State of Environment and Outlook Report 2013



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This is a Government of Rwanda Publication.

For bibliographic and reference purposes this publication should be referred to as :

Kigali: State of Environment and Outlook Report 2013

Rwanda Environment Management Authority

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Printed by: Progress Press Co Ltd., Malta

This report was prepared using funds provided by the Government of Rwanda.

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# Foreword

The City of Kigali is the focus of the 2013 serial of State of the Environment Report as appropriately titled *Kigali: State of Environment and Outlook Report 2013*. Rwanda maintained a high annual GDP growth rate of over 8.2 per cent during the 5-year implementation of the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy, EDPRS I (2008-2012). The country is taking a 'green economy' approach to economic transformation as a priority in the second phase, EDPRS 2 (2013-2018) as efforts are stepped up to attain even faster GDP growth of 11.5 per cent. Bearing in mind that the City of Kigali, Rwanda's financial and economic hub, contributes 50 per cent of the country's GDP, it is critical that the status of the City's environment is given due consideration for appropriate adaptation requirements that make possible green economic growth.

The *Kigali: State of Environment and Outlook Report 2013* provides an overview of the environment around the City's jurisdictional area and a scenario analysis for the future outlook. The City of Kigali has continued to receive accolades from Rwandans and visitors alike as well as from international organizations for among others cleanliness, safety and security, discipline and friendliness of the citizens. This report does no less, revealing the City's achievements in environmental management and the now institutionalised and robust planning framework that emphasises greening plans in the growth of the key service and production sectors.

However, the report highlights a number of serious challenges faced by Kigali, including liquid and solid waste management, air quality, flooding and landslide disaster risks, access and sustainable consumption of water and energy as well as provision of green housing. In the face of a changing climate, Kigali and Rwanda as a whole is not alone in facing these challenges. Indeed, the African Ministers of Environment and Health in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

directed the third Africa Environment Outlook (AEO-3) of 2013 to focus on the negative environmental impacts that account for 60 per cent of Africa's disease of burden dominated by water borne gastrointestinal infections and malaria as well as respiratory disorders from air quality problems.

Nevertheless, the concluding scenario analysis presented in this report indicates that gaps in air quality, biodiversity, chemicals and waste, fresh water and sanitation and land impacting on health as identified in the *AEO-3 Summary for Policymakers* can be filled if the City of Kigali's development plans are successfully implemented within the EDPRS 2 framework. It is my hope that all stakeholders will use this report to identify their respective niche roles and join hands with City of Kigali authorities in contributing to the envisioned state-of-the-art aesthetically attractive, prosperous, green and climate resilient city.



**Hon. Stanislas Kamanzi**

*Minister of Natural Resources*

# Preface

It is my great pleasure to present the State of Environment (SoE) Report under the title, *Kigali: State of Environment and Outlook Report 2013*. This is the third of a series of SoE reporting that fulfils the mandate of Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) as required by the Organic Law 04/2005 of 08/04/2005 Determining the Modalities of Protection, Conservation and Promotion of Environment in Rwanda. The choice of Kigali as a subject for 2013 SoE reporting is a timely response to the national objective of economic transformation that takes into account rapid urbanization and green economic growth as key pillars of the second phase of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS) 2013-2018.

Over the past years, Kigali has consistently been recognized for its growth and development achievements from its own residents and visitors alike. These affirmations have particularly focused on management of the environment and cleanliness. The *Kigali: State of the Environment and Outlook Report 2013* discusses the City's planning framework that gives effect to national policy implementation. The report highlights aspects of environmental

management, climate proof infrastructure and green economic components for the City's overall growth and expansion as a contribution to sustainable national development.

Driving forces for environmental change in Kigali include population growth and distribution, employment, education, health, poverty and economic activities. Urban land use issues and associated impacts on ecosystems and human health are highlighted by graphic representation of Hotspots. An analysis and discussion about what is being done to manage their impacts is presented. The report covers the City of Kigali's progressive achievements in implementing land use decisions since 1994. Such decisions have led to identification of new special economic zones that are prepared to promote environmental sustainability. These policy relevant interventions are increasingly freeing up ecologically sensitive areas like wetlands which will need to be rehabilitated.

Kigali as a rapidly growing City is experiencing challenges of air and water pollution, liquid and solid waste management, inadequate water

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