



# QUARTELY NEWSLETTER

SECOND QUARTER 2024-2025



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# FOREWORD

Resilience Project (VCRP). This grassroots initiative empowers residents to identify pressing water-related issues and propose sustainable solutions tailored to their communities.

The completion of two detention ponds in Musanze District further bolsters flood risk mitigation efforts in the volcano region, adding to a suite of interventions aimed at enhancing resilience against natural disasters.

Additionally, in Nyamasheke District, coffee seedlings were distributed as part of the fight against soil erosion, contributing not only to environmental protection but also to the economic development of local communities.

Another significant development was the Steering Committee meeting for the Muvumba Multipurpose Water Resources Development Program, held at the construction site of the Muvumba Multipurpose Dam. The committee provided strategic insights to advance this transformative project.

RWB remains steadfast in its mission to ensure the sustainable management of water resources for national development.

**DR. EMMANUEL RUKUNDO**  
**DIRECTOR GENERAL**

Dear Readers,  
The Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) is pleased to present its latest newsletter, showcasing the key achievements and activities from the second quarter of the fiscal year 2024-2025.

This quarter marked significant progress as it coincided with the beginning of Rwanda's next development phase under the Second National Strategy for Transformation (NST2).

A notable milestone during this period was the December 2024 launch of the Multi-Stakeholders Platform (MSP) and the signing of the pilot Payment for Ecosystem (PES) in Giciye Catchment. These initiatives represent crucial steps toward fostering collaborative efforts for sustainable water resources management.

In alignment with our commitment to community engagement, RWB introduced Village Land Use Action Plans in 30 villages across Musanze, Nyabihu, and Rubavu Districts as part of the Volcano Community



## ENG. RICHARD NYIRISHEMA APPOINTED AS EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON OF RWANDA WATER RESOURCES BOARD

December 20, 2024: The Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) proudly announces the appointment of Eng. Richard Nyirishema as its new Executive Chairperson. His appointment was confirmed during a Cabinet meeting presided over by His Excellency Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda.

Eng. Nyirishema, the outgoing Minister of Sports, returns to the water resources management sector, where he has built a remarkable career. With decades of experience, he is well-equipped to lead RWB in advancing Rwanda's water security agenda.

Under his leadership, RWB aims to accelerate strategic initiatives that enhance

integrated water resource management, climate resilience, and sustainable water use.

His appointment reinforces the government's commitment to ensuring efficient and effective water resource management to support national development and environmental conservation.

RWB welcomes Eng. Nyirishema and looks forward to his visionary leadership in strengthening Rwanda's water resources sector for the benefit of present and future generations.



## RWANDA LAUNCHES INTER-SECTORAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM FOR WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Kigali, 13 December 2024, The Government of Rwanda, through the Ministry of Environment and the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB), has launched the Inter-Sectoral Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) for Water Resources Management.

This landmark event brought together key players from the public sector, private businesses, civil society organizations, and development partners to address critical water security issues and foster sustainable water resources management in Rwanda.

The MSP represents a crucial step in implementing the Prime Minister Order N°031/03 of November 30, 2022, which governs the National Water Consultative Committee (NWCC). The NWCC consists of a high-level Policy Consultative Committee and the MSP, focusing on technical coordination, strategic planning, and collaborative action to tackle Rwanda's water resource challenges.

The key objectives of the MSP include support Rwanda in achieving water

security for economic growth and development, promote dialogue among stakeholders to co-design solutions for pressing water-related challenge, enhance coordination and joint planning across public, private, and civil society sectors, and pilot innovative interventions, such as the Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) initiative.

The operationalization of the MSP was developed with the support of the 2030 Water Resources Group (2030 WRG), a global partnership hosted by the World Bank Group.

The Launch of MSP marked the historical Signing of Partnership Framework between Rwanda Water Resources Board, Rwanda Mountain Tea Ltd, ARCOS Network, and IUCN for PES Pilot at Giciye Catchment.

Beatrice Cyiza, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, expressed her optimism emphasizing the role of MSP in advancing Rwanda's water security efforts.



“The launch of this platform marks a new chapter in Rwanda’s commitment to water security and sustainability. By bringing together diverse stakeholders, we are building a foundation for collaboration, innovation, and practical solutions to our water challenges. This is a collective victory for Rwanda’s development agenda,” she stated.

Dr. Emmanuel Rukundo, Director General of the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB), highlighted the transformative potential of innovative partnerships in addressing water challenges during the launch of the Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) pilot project.

“Through initiatives like the Payment for Ecosystem Services pilot, we are not only addressing water security but also creating economic and environmental benefits for communities. This partnership framework is a testament to what we can achieve when we work together.” He noted

With growing pressure on water resources from population growth, urbanization, and climate change, Rwanda’s approach to water security is critical for its sustainable development. The MSP provides a neutral partnership space to address complex water challenges through collaborative action and knowledge sharing.

The MSP would comprise of members of the Heads of Public institutions namely: Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB), that chairs the MSP; WASAC Group; Rwanda Energy Group (REG); Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA); Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB); Rwanda Transport Development Authority (RTDA); Rwanda Housing Authority (RHA); National Land Authority (NLA); Rwanda Meteorology Agency (RMA); Senior representative of MINEMA CEO of Private Sector Federation (PSF); and the Executive Secretary of the Forum of Non-Governmental Organizations on environment (RENGONF).



## RWB'S PARTICIPATES IN THE LAUNCH OF NATIONAL TREE PLANTING SEASON

Saturday, October 26, 2024: Dr. Emmanuel Rukundo, the Director General of the Rwanda Water Board (RWB), RWB staff participated in a monthly community work (Umuganda) which marked the launch of the National Tree Planting Season 2024-2025, under the theme "Plant a Tree, Nurture It, Save the Planet."

This initiative was organized by the Ministry of Environment, Rwanda Forestry Authority, took place in the Munyaga Sector of Rwamagana District, where 25,000 trees were planted across 17 hectares.

Dr. Uwamariya Valentine, the Minister of Environment, emphasized the Government of Rwanda's commitment to combating climate change through tree planting. "During this rainy season, we have prepared more seedlings and collaborated with different stakeholders to secure 65 million trees of various types," she stated.

"Considering the importance of trees and the changes in our climate, we must

find ways to attract rainfall through reforestation, as trees play a crucial role in this process," Min. Valentine added.

This fiscal year 2024-2025, the Government of Rwanda aims to plant a total of 65 million trees, to combat climate change and promote environmental conservation.

Rwanda Water Resources Board, recognizes the paramount role of planting trees in preventing soil erosion and protecting riverbanks, both of which are critical to safeguarding Rwanda's water resources.





## VCRP: RWB LAUNCHES VILLAGE LAND USE ACTION PLANS IN MUSANZE, NYABIHU & RUBAVU

The Rwanda Water Resources Board is engaging citizens in the development of Village Land Use Action Plans as part of the implementation process of the Volcano Community Resilience Project.

This initiative commenced on October 7, 2024, and is being carried out in the first 30 villages across Musanze, Nyabihu, and Rubavu districts.

The primary goal of these Village Land Use Action Plans is to establish sustainable landscape restoration measures. These measures will play a crucial role in the long-term management of flood risk, soil erosion, and sedimentation within the catchments.

Residents of the selected villages are actively identifying the environmental challenges they face and proposing potential solutions, including erosion control structures, soil conservation techniques, harvesting facilities, and agroforestry models.

The overarching objective of this project component (Landscape Restoration) is to improve soil and water management, enhance agricultural productivity, and build climate resilience in target communities. This will be achieved by aligning restoration activities with local land use plans.

The Volcano Community Resilience Project, funded by the World Bank and other development partners, aims to strengthen climate resilience, reduce flood risks, and improve the management of natural resources and tourism assets in the Volcanoes and Vunga corridor region of Rwanda.

The Rwanda Water Resources Board is responsible for implementing two key components of the project: Flood Risk Management and Landscape Restoration and Catchment Management.



## NYAMASHEKE: FARMERS RECEIVE COFFEE SEEDLINGS TO COMBAT SOIL EROSION

In collaboration with the International Water Management Institute, the Rwanda Water Resources Board distributed coffee seedlings to farmers in the Karengera Sector of Nyamasheke District as part of an initiative to combat soil erosion in the Rubyiro Sub-catchment area.

From December 5th to 6th, 2024, the first round of seedlings was distributed to local farmers, selected for their efforts in soil protection. A total of 2,000 seedlings were handed out to farmers in Karengera Sector, with plans to distribute an additional seedling in the coming months to reach 5,000.

Farmers, including Nyiramana Pascasie, a local coffee grower, expressed strong support for the project. Pascasie noted that coffee serves both as a source of income and a tool for preventing soil erosion: “Coffee helps with both income generation and erosion control. It protects the land and preserves the soil,” she said. The Karengera Sector agronomist, Mbanenande, commended the initiative,

emphasizing its dual benefits: “This support is vital in our fight against soil erosion. Coffee will protect our land and contribute to our community’s prosperity.”

Through this project, 5,000 coffee seedlings will cover 16,541 hectares in Nyamasheke District, combining agricultural development with environmental stewardship.

In June 2023, the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) partnered with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) to launch the Inclusive Landscape Management Plan (ILMP) in the Rubyiro sub-catchment.

The partnership between RWB, IWMI, and local farmers is paving the way for a more resilient and sustainable future for Rwanda’s landscapes and communities. By empowering communities to manage their resources, the project fosters both



## RWB HOSTS ETHIOPIA'S MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENERGY DELEGATION

On November 18, 2024, the Rwanda Water Resources Board Director General, Dr. Emmanuel Rukundo, welcomed a delegation from Ethiopia, led by Dr. Abreha Aduugna, State Minister of the Ministry of Water & Energy, who were in Rwanda for a learning tour.

The visit aimed to share Rwanda's experience and best practices in basin planning and governance, with a particular focus on the governance process—from catchment planning to implementation. The delegation expressed specific interest in catchment restoration initiatives and Rwanda's water use permitting system.

In his welcome remarks, Dr. Emmanuel Rukundo, Director General of RWB, shared the historical background of the organization and its daily responsibilities in the protection and sustainable management of water resources.

This delegation proceeded with the field visit focused on RWB's water permitting system and its compliance mechanisms. They visited two water users in Rwamagana District: a macadamia farmer with a fish farming pond and Bella Flowers Ink, both of whom use water for irrigation under RWB's water permit, and gained valuable insights into RWB's permitting system and the technologies employed by water users to extract water from lakes and transport it to irrigation zones.

Additionally, they participated in a community tree-planting initiative in the Fumbwe Sector of Rwamagana District, part of a government-supported community forestry project. The project focuses on rehabilitating 22 hectares of forest and planting 44,000 trees to combat climate change and preserve catchments.

The last field visit took place at the New Muhazi Dyke, where the delegation explored the multipurpose uses of the structure, including the conservation of water in Muhazi Lake and flood control for downstream areas. Completed in 2022, the new dyke replaced an older, unprotected one, which posed a risk of flooding to Nyabugogo, a commercial hub in Kigali.

At the conclusion of the visit, Getachew, Project Manager for Water Allocation and Basin Plan Implementation in Ethiopia, shared his reflections: "We came to learn about basin planning, the government process regarding water corporations, and water allocation issues. The presentations were insightful, and we learned a lot about what the Rwanda Water Resources Board is doing."

He added "The field visits were also very informative. We learned about Rwanda's water permitting system, how it works, and how RWB collaborates with local communities to manage water resources. We are impressed with how Rwanda's water authority regulates the water system, which is similar to the way we approach water management in Ethiopia."



## RWB HELD THE 6TH MEETING OF THE MUVUMBA PROGRAM STEERING COMMITTEE

On December 18, 2024, the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) hosted the 6th meeting of the Muvumba Multipurpose Water Resources Development Program Steering Committee (PSC) in Nyagatare District.

This meeting followed the 10th Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting held a day earlier at RWB headquarters in Kigali.

Chaired by Ms. Beatrice Cyiza, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, the meeting aimed to provide guidance and support for the program's implementation. The key agenda items included updates on program progress and action plans.

The session began with a site tour of the major components of the Muvumba Multipurpose Dam, including the excavation works for the embankment dam, spillway, and diversion conduit, the batching plant, crusher plant, and permanent dumping site.

Discussions followed in the meeting room, addressing challenges such as the rainy season's impact on excavation, with contractors adjusting schedules to work during dry hours.

In her closing remarks, PS Beatrice expressed gratitude for the members' contributions and technical insights, which are vital to the program's success.

The Muvumba Multipurpose Water Resources Development Program (Phase 1) entails constructing a 39-meter-high dam to store 55 million cubic meters of water. This initiative will irrigate 9,000 hectares, provide water for livestock, and supply 50,000 cubic meters daily for domestic use. Additionally, the dam will generate 6,939 MWh of electricity annually through two turbines with a combined capacity of





## SECURING MUSANZE: DETENTION PONDS BUILT TO PROTECT COMMUNITIES FROM FLOODS

The Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) has successfully completed the construction of detention ponds in Musanze District, a significant initiative aimed at mitigating flood risks and protecting communities from flood damage.

Residents of Nyange and Cyuve sectors have long faced the threat of flooding caused by rainwater flowing from the volcanoes through the Cyuve gully. In response, the Cyuve Flood Control Project was initiated to address these challenges by safeguarding local communities, protecting the Musanze-Cyanika road, and improving water management in the volcanic region.

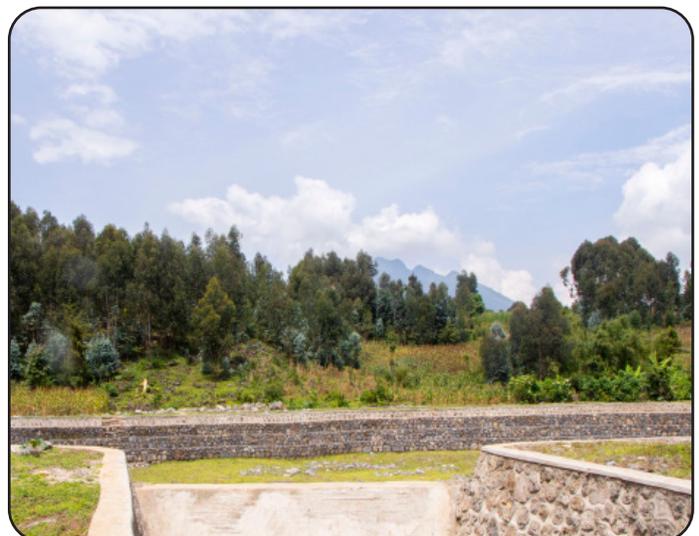
The first detention pond, located in Nyange Sector, boasts a storage capacity of 39,000 cubic meters. Strategically situated upstream, before any tributaries flow into the Cyuve gully, it captures and stores floodwaters at their source, significantly reducing the water volume entering the gully downstream.

The second pond, positioned in Cyuve Sector, is located downstream after the convergence of five tributaries into the Cyuve gully. With a storage capacity of 49,000 cubic meters, it

complements the upstream pond by managing larger volumes of floodwaters.

Both ponds have already proven effective, demonstrating their ability to retain floodwaters and mitigate flood risks during recent flood events, thereby protecting downstream communities.

RWB remains committed to ending hazardous flooding in the volcanic region. Ongoing interventions under the Volcano Community Resilience Project will address remaining flood-prone areas, ensuring enhanced safety and resilience for local populations.





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