

# POLICY DIALOGUE AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT ON CLIMATE PROTECTION STRATEGIES (DIAPOL-CE) IN RWANDA

## Context

Rwanda is situated in East-Central Africa and shares borders with Uganda to the north, Tanzania to the east, Burundi to the south, and the Democratic Republic of Congo to the west. In Rwanda, peatlands are not yet explicitly mentioned in national strategies despite their occurrence but are included in the term “wetlands” (see wetland definition by Ramsar, 2010) which naturally refers to a range of different ecosystems.

Rwanda is party to UNFCCC and has signed the Paris Agreement on 22 April 2016 and ratified on the 27 September 2016. The Paris Agreement (2015) is an agreement within the UNFCCC with the goal to keep the increase in global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels; and to pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 °C. Peatlands are recognized by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as the most efficient carbon sinks in the world. Covering approximately 3% of the world’s land area, peatlands hold 30% of the world’s carbon content and provide invaluable ecosystems services for both the environment and society.



## Objective

The overall DIAPOL-CE approach concerning sustainable peatland management is to facilitate systematic dialogues to increase awareness and mainstreaming peatlands into key national strategic climate policy strategic documents.

The pilot sites to be focused on will be: Rugezi North, Gishoma and Akanyaru North.

Project title	Policy Dialogue and Knowledge Management on Climate Protection Strategies (DIAPOL-CE)
Module title	Sustainable Peatland Management
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV)
Political partner	Ministry of Environment (MoE) and Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA)
Overall term	03/2014 – 06/2025

## Approach

The DIAPOL-CE project aims to promote sustainable peatland management in Rwanda through close collaboration with the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA).

In Rwanda, GIZ will bring together all stakeholders in peatland management, strengthen the technical capacity of partners in monitoring and assessment of peatlands for climate action, promote scientific knowledge and understanding of peatland’s socio-economic potential, raise stakeholders’ awareness on sustainable peatlands management, and explore financial instruments such as carbon and biodiversity credits.



## Activities in the Scope of Current Cooperation

The project is implemented through the following four workpackages:

**Analysis of potentials for natural climate mitigation through peatlands:** The focus of this activity is to promote knowledge and capacity development on the role of peatlands as valuable carbon stocks and important providers of ecological functions and services to advance climate action.

**Economic valorisation of peatlands:** The project will develop a report on paludiculture (wetland agriculture) value chain development in two sites.

**Scenarios for sustainable management of peatlands:** The project will conduct a scenario analysis and cost-benefit-analysis for sustainable peatland management in the agriculture sector.

**Elaboration of financing approaches:** The project will assess Rwanda's potential carbon market opportunities for peatlands and conduct a peatland focused pre-feasibility study on carbon credit and biodiversity credits to inform decision makers.

## Expected Outputs

The project will produce the outputs below:

- **Policy Briefs for Decision Makers:** The project will develop concise policy briefs to inform and guide decision-makers on effective peatland management strategies. This will highlight the importance of integrating climate change considerations into land-use policies.
- **Paludiculture Value Chain Development Guidelines:** The project will analyse the potential for paludiculture in selected sites and propose actionable strategies to develop a sustainable value chain that benefits Rwanda's economy, local communities and the environment.

- **Paludiculture Scenarios:** The scenario analysis will provide recommendations for the agricultural sector, ensuring productivity and sustainable livelihoods while ensuring peatland conservation.
- **Pre-Feasibility Study on Carbon Credits and Biodiversity Credits:** The project will assess the viability of carbon market initiatives linked to peatland restoration and conservation and investigate potential biodiversity crediting mechanisms to support sustainable peatland management.

The following are the projected outcomes, once the project has achieved these outputs:

- Partner government integrates natural carbon sinks with tangible mitigation potentials in their climate protection strategy and programs (NDC, NST2, NBSAP, Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy (GGCRS)).
- Partner agencies will initiate one additional financing mechanism for climate protection, adaptation to climate change and biodiversity protection.



### Impressum

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**Contact:**  
Anita Richter

**Authors:** Jean Claude Nshimiyimana, Alexander Hunfeld

**Photos:** GIZ/Jean Claude Nshimiyimana

Köthener Str. 2  
10963 Berlin  
T +49 30 33 84-24-280  
F +49 30 33 84 24-22280  
E [anita.richter@giz.de](mailto:anita.richter@giz.de)  
<http://www.giz.de>

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Stresemannstraße 128-130  
10117 Berlin

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