

Strengthening Land Use Planning – Setting up a Planning System in Rwanda

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SUMMARY

Like many countries, Rwanda has faced unplanned spatial developments such as the sprawl of informal or unplanned settlements. Climate change also poses severe challenges to a sustainable development. Effects are even more severe due to a growing population which leads to pressure on existing land use and on protected land.

To guide developments in a sustainable way, it was acknowledged that an increased effort in spatial planning was required. Therefore, several activities were employed to boost and expand the planning system in Rwanda. Two tiers of governance levels have been addressed: at the national level a national land use master plan was developed and at the regional level district land use plans will be developed. The Ministry of Infrastructure is politically responsible for the national level and likewise the district council is responsible for the district land use plans. The national land authority (NLA) has been assigned the task to support the district councils with the development of district land use plans. Another important responsibility of NLA is the monitoring and evaluation of land use change and its alignment with the spatial plans.

This paper will address the spatial challenges, the introduced planning system and the development of spatial plans.