

# NEWSLETTER

December 2009

## Rwanda Land Use and Development Master Plan

### Dear Reader,

This newsletter presents some highlights up to December 2009 and is primarily intended for people affiliated with the project. Please also note that the newsletter has an informal character and that its content does not imply official endorsement by NLC or Swedesurvey. If you have ideas or questions about the Project, please contact the Project Manager, Mr. Christer Kjörneberg, [christer.kjorneberg@swedesurvey.se](mailto:christer.kjorneberg@swedesurvey.se)

### Baton-changing at Management Level



Dr. Nils Viking (right) is now facing new challenging tasks in Sweden and elsewhere. The new Project Manager, Mr. Christer Kjörneberg (left) is an experienced manager cum architect planner. We wish both of them the best of luck in their new assignments.

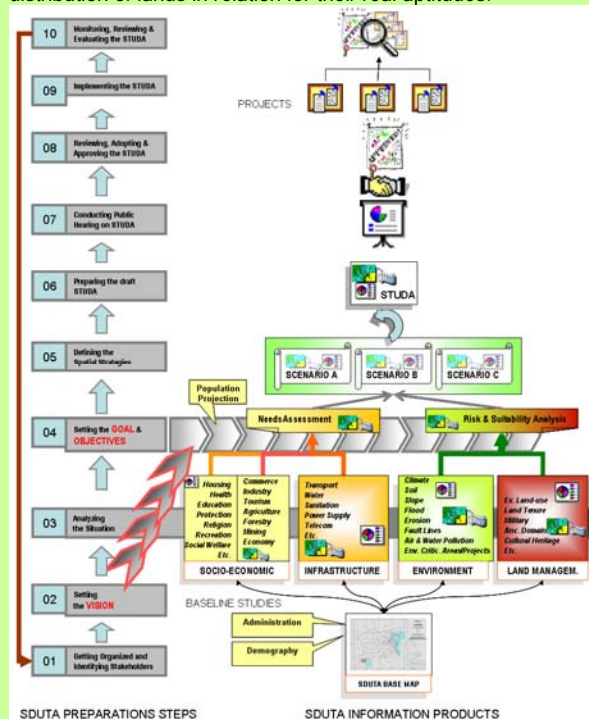
### Consultations Initiated and in Progress

Within the auspice of the Ministry of Lands and Environment project on the Rwanda National Land Use and Development Master Plan, 'SDUTA', there has been a series of stakeholder meetings from October to November 2009 organized by Swedesurvey to seek preferences on contents and crucial plan format of the Rwanda National Land Use and Development Master Plan.

### Project Background

In Rwanda, land is of inestimable value. It is the foundation of agriculture in its global aspect, tourism, habitat and all various infrastructures such as roads, schools, hospitals; industrial complexes etc. It continues to be the basis of wealth for Rwandan population and the cornerstone of socio economic development. The predominance of the population in agriculture combined with the demographic pressure has progressively brought about deep modifications in the use of land, overexploitation and anarchical exploitation of natural resources. For the past decade, the need to make sustainable use of Rwanda's land, given its small size, hilly topography and rapid population growth, has become more pressing and rational land use planning has become a fundamental priority.

The preparation of a Rwanda land use and development master plan "SDUTA" is a national priority to serve as basic tool and spring board in the application of national policies (VISION 2020) geared towards poverty reduction through precise and coherent distribution of lands in relation for their real aptitudes.



In brief, Participants agreed that all agencies must be bound by the master plan. However, it was suggested that the master plan must be owned by one Ministry and a governing commission be established to supervise its implementation, a validation period of 5 years and a planning horizon of 10 years was agreed upon, a need to harmonize planning roles and policies, which is important to coordinate different initiatives such as transport master plan and irrigation master plan was emphasized.



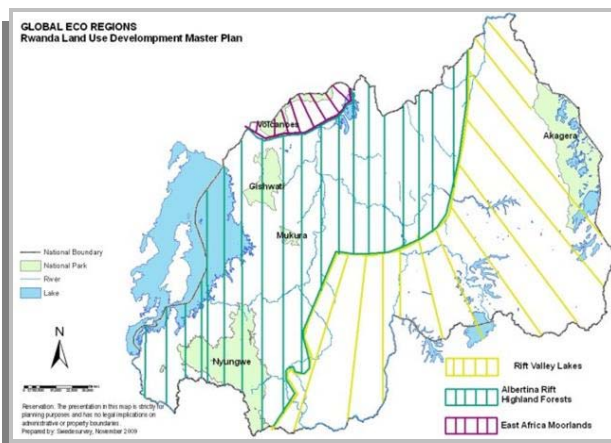
### From the Writer's Desk

In the first Part of the Plan, data collection and the preparation a series of specific sector studies have been carried out according to the Project's ToR; here is an extract from a recent example:

#### Socio-Economic Study of Ecologically Sensitive Areas

Although Rwanda is a small country, it encompasses a level of geographic diversity and includes a number of different ecologically-sensitive areas. The field-based scoping work carried out between April and June 2008 assessed and identified the different types and locations of ecologically-sensitive areas, including the three national parks. From this work, the need for more detailed analysis and assessment of the situations of people living in areas neighboring Rwanda's national parks emerged, with an emphasis on recommendations and solutions for community involvement in livelihoods development, land management and conservation in buffer areas near the parks, for consideration in Plan preparation. This has included looking at the socio-economic issues relating to the people living in 'potential buffer zone' areas with the aim of providing incentives to make people respect the park boundaries (limit illegal or unsustainable fuel wood collection, fishing and poaching, charcoal production or grazing in the parks and also work to limit the need for additional agricultural land, which is creating pressure to degazette national parks, etc) as well as to solving any management issues related to the already existing buffer zones around the boundary zones. This report thus discusses park boundary and buffer zone conservation issues, potential solutions,

opportunities and mechanisms, and makes recommendations to address both ecological and socio-economic concerns.



### Staff Gallery

Under this title we present team members who are working hard and committed to give Rwanda a tool for sustainable development:



Ms. Rhona Nyakulama has been working with the project since January 2008 and her main contribution has been in GIS applications for both base map production and development planning. A holder of a Bsc. Surveying and Msc International Urban Planning, Rhona has also contributed significantly in the areas of the built

environment in Kigali City and Central Government. In her 10 years of active service, she has offered consultancy services to the UN (IFAD and UNEP), Central Government and national Institutions/projects.



*Well, not really a Team Member but Santa just wants to wish you a blessed festive season and hope that 2010 is a great year for you all!*

## BACKGROUND

*Swedesurvey is assisting National Land Center (NLC) to provide Rwanda with its first National Land Use and Development Master Plan together with national coverage of high resolution orthophotos and base maps. The project started in 2008 and will end in 2010.*

