REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

Aligning Water and Mining Indicators from Nationally Determined Contribution 2.0 to Nationally Determined Contribution 3.0

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Briefing Note 1: Aligning Water and Mining Indicators from Nationally Determined Contribution 2.0 to Nationally Determined Contribution 3.0

Ministry of Environment, Department of Environmental and Climate Change, Rwanda
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CENR	Climate, Environment and Natural Resources
GESI	gender equality and social inclusion
GGCRS	Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy
MEL	monitoring, evaluation, and learning
MINAGRI	Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources
MINECOFIN	Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
MININFRA	Ministry of Infrastructure
MoE	Ministry of Environment
NDC	nationally determined contribution
NST	National Strategy for Transformation
REMA	Rwanda Environment Management Authority
RGF	Rwanda Green Fund
RMB	Rwanda Mines, Petroleum and Gas Board
RWB	Rwanda Water Resources Board
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

1.0 Introduction

In 2020, Rwanda launched its second nationally determined contribution (NDC 2.0) under the Paris Agreement to strengthen climate resilience and manage natural resources sustainably. NDC 2.0 set clear baseline indicators for key areas such as water security and climate-smart mining practices. Since then, new climate risks and development goals have made it necessary to update this framework. The country is now finalizing NDC 3.0, which builds on existing policies to create a unified, economy-wide approach to climate adaptation and embeds measurable targets into national planning.

The revised NDC aligns with Rwanda's National Strategy for Transformation 2 (NST2: 2024–2029), the Climate, Environment and Natural Resources Sector Strategic Plan (CENR 2024–2029), and the Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy (GGCRS 2023). This ensures that our adaptation indicators not only measure specific sector outcomes but also support broader goals—such as water-sensitive urban planning, better watershed management, and circular economy techniques in mining.

The third phase of the National Adaptation Plan Global Network work program has driven this update. Working together, the Government of Rwanda and partners—World Food Programme, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Population Fund, Global Green Growth Institute, and International Labour Organization—have organized four interconnected workstreams. Each workstream delivers concrete results and builds lasting capacity for climate action. All are designed to be gender-responsive and socially inclusive, so everyone benefits.

Key outcomes so far include introducing gender-based violence risk assessments into climate governance, strengthening youth participation in NDC oversight, and creating a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Index and Simulation Tool. These tools help us track social impacts, improve accountability, and make our climate strategy more inclusive.

By putting these updated indicators into practice, Rwanda will guide its climate investments more effectively, support timely policy decisions, and promote proven solutions such as nature-based approaches and resilient infrastructure. This clear, evidence-based framework will help us achieve NST-2 targets and build a climate-smart, equitable future for all Rwandans.

2.0 Policy Framework for Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Adaptation

At the highest level, Vision 2050 guides Rwanda's long-term development and underscores that environmental health and climate resilience are essential for inclusive growth (Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning [MINECOFIN], 2020). The 2019 National Environment and Climate Change Policy sets the goal of "a clean and healthy environment resilient to climate variability and change," providing the strategic basis for all adaptation actions (Ministry of Environment [MoE], 2019).

NST-2 (2024–2029) mainstreams climate adaptation into the national development agenda by integrating NDC 3.0 targets into sector policies and public investments (Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning [MINECOFIN], 2024a). It emphasizes economic transformation, social development, and strong governance, ensuring that sectors such as water resources and mining contribute directly to Rwanda's adaptation objectives.

The revised GGCRS (2023) is Rwanda's long-term roadmap for green economic transformation (MoE, 2023). It focuses on five pillars—food and water security; resilient and inclusive human settlements; green industry and services; sustainable ecosystems and biodiversity; and governance, finance, and innovation—which together anchor climate adaptation across all levels of planning.

The CENR Strategic Plan (2024–2029) translates these high-level goals into concrete actions: securing high-risk slopes with terraces and agroforestry buffers; doubling water treatment capacity; restoring northern and western catchments and wetlands to protect 40% of vulnerable households; relocating informal settlements in hazard zones; and expanding urban green infrastructure (MoE, 2024). It also commits to rehabilitating 550,000 ha of eroded catchments and establishing over 1.7 million hectares of forests and agroforestry as natural flood regulators.

To mobilize and track the necessary funding, the Climate and Nature Finance Strategy (2024) defines national investment priorities, estimates financing needs, and outlines mechanisms—such as concessional loans, blended finance, carbon markets, and green bonds—to support NDC 3.0 implementation (MINECOFIN, 2024b). It aligns with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and leverages facilities like Ireme Invest and Intego to ensure transparency, inclusivity, and results-driven investments (Rwanda Green Fund [RGF], 2024).

Finally, the Revised National Investment Policy 9 (2023) and the 2023 Green Taxonomy create an enabling environment for private sector engagement (MINECOFIN, 2023; RGF, 2025). The National Investment Policy incorporates climate-smart criteria into investment decisions and offers incentives for green capital flows (MINECOFIN, 2023). The Green Taxonomy provides a clear, internationally aligned classification of sustainable investments, improving tracking of green finance and building investor confidence in Rwanda's adaptation agenda (RGF, 2025). Together, these frameworks form the foundation for a robust monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) system that will measure progress, inform policy adjustments, and ensure that adaptation actions deliver lasting benefits for all Rwandans.

3.0 Methodological Approach for Revising NDC 2.0

The methodology for the adaptation prioritization in NDC 3.0 followed these steps: First, a comprehensive review of Rwanda's guiding frameworks—including Vision 2050, NST-2 (2024–2029), GGCRS 2023, the CENR Sector Plan (2024–2029), and relevant sector policies—was conducted to confirm that every proposed adaptation measure and indicator aligns with national development and resilience objectives. Second, all adaptation actions, associated metrics, baseline values, and preliminary targets referenced in these documents were extracted to form a consolidated long list of potential measures. Third, multistakeholder workshops at national and district levels brought together representatives from government ministries, local authorities, the private sector, academia, and civil society. Each action on the long list was scored using four criteria—effectiveness, feasibility, equity, and cost-efficiency—before consensus discussions identified the highest-priority measures.

Figure 1. Framework of analysis for the adaptation prioritization

Source: Developed by the authors, drawing on national adaptation planning approaches, NDC-aligned prioritization criteria, and sectoral resilience frameworks used in Rwanda.

Fourth, clear indicators and SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-bound) targets were established for each priority measure by compiling the latest data to set baselines and project milestones for 2030 and 2035. Lead institutions, such as the Rwanda Water Board and Rwanda

Environment Management Authority (REMA), verified assumptions, supplied operational data, and refined cost estimates.

Fifth, GESI considerations were embedded through targeted consultations coordinated with the Global Green Growth Institute. Their guidance report ensured that all indicators and targets address equity and represent vulnerable groups.

Sixth, existing data collection and monitoring tools—including strategic assessment matrices—were leveraged to ground each indicator in robust empirical evidence. Sector-specific metrics for water resource management and mining were tailored to reflect operational realities and technical requirements.

Seventh, a comprehensive financial needs assessment defined the investment required for each priority action, distinguishing between unconditional (domestic) and conditional (external) financing. Ministry budgets, development partner pipelines, and private sector opportunities were reviewed to identify funding gaps, co-benefits with mitigation, and linkages to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Finally, this methodological approach produced a prioritized, fully costed adaptation portfolio that aligns explicitly with Rwanda's national strategies, providing a clear, accountable, and data-driven framework for NDC 3.0 implementation.

4.0 Prioritized NDC 3.0 Measures for Water Resources and Mining

The prioritized adaptation measures are outlined below for each of the two thematic areas:

Water Resources

NDC 3.0 accelerates Rwanda's transition to integrated water resources management. This includes catchment restoration through terracing and agroforestry, targeting the rehabilitation of over 1 million hectares of degraded land by 2030. These efforts aim to reduce runoff and flood risks while regulating water flows during dry seasons. The plan also encompasses increased water storage to enhance water security and improve efficiency of water use, supported by a target to expand water quality monitoring from 51 to 76 waterbodies by 2030, and to 101 by 2035. Concurrently, flood protection investments will increase to safeguard 40% of high-risk households by 2030 and 60% by 2035. The NDC will promote the sustainable expansion of irrigation, aiming to increase the irrigated area from 102,000 hectares in 2025 to 200,000 hectares by 2030, thereby bolstering agricultural production and food security against rainfall variability.

Mining

Rather than viewing mining as a sector vulnerable to climate risks, NDC 3.0 positions it as a partner in resilience. The ambition is for 90% of operations to adopt climate-compatible practices, such as water-efficient processing and dry-stack tailings, by 2030. Abandoned sites will be rehabilitated into green buffer zones, and mandatory flood impact assessments will be implemented to prevent contamination during extreme events.

Table 1 summarizes the prioritized sector adaptation interventions, including corresponding indicators, baselines, and targets for 2030 and 2035. It also outlines the responsible government ministries, implementing lead agencies, and estimated adaptation finance requirements.

With the newly established adaptation measures, targets, and funding requirements defined, the next step involves a comparative analysis of NDC 3.0 in relation to NDC 2.0. This comparison will focus on four critical areas: the scope of adaptation actions, the degree of ambition in targets, the roles and responsibilities of implementing institutions, and the strategies for financing. By systematically examining these dimensions, it will become clear where NDC 3.0 enhances Rwanda's climate resilience agenda and where opportunities for further improvement remain.

Table 1. Adaptation interventions for water resources and mining: Indicators, baselines, targets, and funding estimates (2025–2035)

Sequence number (SN)	Intervention	Indicator	Baseline	Line ministry (implementing entities)	Targets		Funding estimate 2025–2035 (USD)
					2030	2035	
Water resources							
1	Develop national water security through water storage and efficient water use	Water storage per capita (m^3/capita)	5.3	MoE/Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI), Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB/REMA/Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB), Private sector)	12	17.6	1.5 billion
		Artificial water storage per capita (m3/capita)	5.8	MoE /Ministry of Infrastructure (MININFRA) (RWB/REMA/Water and Sanitation Corporation (WASAC), private sector)	45	55	
2	Improve water monitoring and pollution control	Number of waterbodies monitored for ambient water quality and water quantity	51	MoE (RWB/private sector)	76	101	2.25 million
3	Build flood protection and improve water drainage systems around homes in risk areas	% of households in high-risk areas protected from flood-related hazards	9	MININFRA (RWB, private sector, districts)	40	60	2.2 million
4	Enhance water-user registration and compliance by increasing official permits and regular payment of environmental fees	Water users equipped with permits and compliant with environmental fees	1,020	MOE (RWB/private sector)	1,500	2,000	0.8 million

Sequence number (SN)	Intervention	Indicator	Baseline	Line ministry (implementing entities)	Targets		Funding estimate 2025–2035 (USD)
					2030	2035	
5	Implement catchment restoration (hillside terracing and agroforestry in erosion-prone areas) to reduce runoff, stabilize soil, and restore degraded land	Area of land at high risk of soil erosion restored (Ha)	332,861	RWB	550,000	640,000	700 million
6	Restore degraded critical ecosystems (wetlands, lakeshores, riverbanks, and natural forests)	Area of degraded critical ecosystems and riparian areas restored and managed (Ha)	1,852	MoE (RWB)	3,300,000	4,414	107 million
Mining							
7	Climate-compatible mining	Percentage of companies deploying climate-compatible mining practices	74.5	MoE/MINICOM (Rwanda Mines, Petroleum and Gas Board [RMB], private sector, civil society)	90	100	23.2 million
		Number of abandoned mining and quarrying sites rehabilitated	0		994	NA	

Source: Compiled by authors, based on Rwanda's NDC 3.0.

5.0 Comparison of NDC 3.0 and NDC 2.0

The NDC 3.0 framework builds directly upon NDC 2.0 (2020–2030), elevating the level of ambition, introducing new performance metrics, and mobilizing larger pools of public and private finance. The subsequent comparative tables summarize, for each thematic area, the key interventions, indicators, baselines, targets, implementing entities, timelines, and estimated funding requirements under both NDC 2.0 and NDC 3.0.

In water resources, the most notable enhancement lies in the disaggregation of water storage targets and the introduction of metrics for artificial water storage. Whereas NDC 2.0 established a general objective to enhance national water security through conservation, wetland restoration, and increased storage—backed by a total investment envelope of USD 164.3 million—NDC 3.0 sets a clear baseline of 5.3 m^3 of water storage per person by 2025, increasing to 12 m^3 by 2030 and 17.6 m^3 by 2035.

Concurrently, artificial storage is measured separately, rising from a baseline of 5.8 m^3 to 45 m^3 and subsequently to 55 m^3 per capita by 2035. This increased granularity reflects a more sophisticated planning approach and facilitates closer monitoring of infrastructure investments by the MoE, MINAGRI, RWB, REMA, and private partners.

Monitoring and regulatory compliance receive increased emphasis under NDC 3.0. The previous objective of developing water resource models and enhancing hydro-information systems—backed by an allocation of USD 10 million—has been supplanted by a quantitative goal to augment the number of monitored waterbodies from 51 in 2025 to 76 in 2030 and 101 in 2035, with a dedicated budget of USD 2.25 million. Furthermore, for the first time, flood-risk reduction is monitored through the percentage of high-risk households protected, increasing from 9% today to 40% by 2030 and 60% by 2035, under the auspices of MININFRA and district authorities. In addition to flood protection, NDC 3.0 introduces an indicator for water-user registration and fee compliance: 1,020 users were compliant in 2025, with targets of 1,500 by 2030 and 2,000 by 2035, funded with USD 0.8 million. These additions signify a transition from planning studies to operational enforcement and risk management.

Objectives for ecosystem restoration are similarly scaled up and clarified. Under NDC 2.0, “catchment restoration” and “wetlands restoration” were encompassed within broad conservation practices. However, NDC 3.0 specifies that 332,861 hectares of erosion-prone land must be rehabilitated by 2025, expanding to 550,000 hectares by 2030 and 640,000 hectares by 2035, with an investment of USD 700 million. Likewise, critical ecosystems—including wetlands, lakeshores, and riparian corridors—are projected to increase from 1,852 hectares in 2025 to 3,300 hectares by 2030 and 4,414 hectares by 2035, supported by an investment of USD 107 million. These targets are managed by RWB and REMA and reflect an integrated approach to watershed health, significantly surpassing the more conceptual goals of the earlier NDC.

Table 2. Comparative analysis of water resources interventions in NDC 2.0 (2020–2030) versus NDC 3.0 (2025–2035)

SN	Intervention	Indicator	NDC 2.0 (2020–2030)	NDC 3.0 (2025–2035)
1	Develop national water security through water conservation, wetlands restoration, water storage, and efficient water use	**Water storage per capita** (m^3/capita)	**Timeline**: 2020–2025 & 2025–2030 **Targets**: ✓ (no explicit values) **Funding**: USD 164.3 million	**Baseline (2025)**: 5.3 **Targets**: 12 (2030) → 17.6 (2035) **Funding**: USD 1.5 billion **Leads**: MoE/MINAGRI (RWB/REMA/RAB), private sector
		Artificial water storage per capita (m^3/capita)	– (not disaggregated)	**Baseline (2025)**: 5.8 **Targets**: 45 (2030) → 55 (2035) **Funding**: Included above **Leads**: MoE/MININFRA (RWB/REMA/WASAC), private sector
2	Develop water resource models, water quality testing, and improved hydro-information systems	**Number of catchments with models/# waterbodies with good quality**	**Timeline**: 2020–2025 & 2025–2030 **Targets**: ✓ **Funding**: USD 10 million	**Indicator**: Number of water bodies monitored for ambient quality & quantity **Baseline (2025)**: 51 **Targets**: 76 (2030) → 101 (2035) **Funding**: USD 2.25 million **Leads**: MoE (RWB), Private sector
3	Catchment management and flood-risk reduction	**# operational hydrological stations/Reduction in flood-vulnerable roads**	**Timeline**: 2020–2025 & 2025–2030 **Targets**: ✓ **Funding**: USD 360 million	% of households in high-risk areas protected **Baseline (2025)**: 9 % **Targets**: 40 % (2030) → 60 % (2035) **Funding**: USD 2.2 million **Leads**: MININFRA (RWB), private sector, districts

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SN	Intervention	Indicator	NDC 2.0 (2020–2030)	NDC 3.0 (2025–2035)
4	Enhance regulatory compliance and fee-based water services	*(Not explicitly tracked under NDC 2.0)*	–	**Indicator**: Water users with permits & compliant on fees **Baseline (2025)**: 1,020 users **Targets**: 1,500 (2030) → 2,000 (2035) **Funding**: USD 0.8 million **Leads**: MoE (RWB), private sector
5	Implement catchment restoration (terracing & agroforestry)	*(Considered under conservation practices)*	**Timeline**: 2020–2025 & 2025–2030 **Targets**: ✓ **Funding**: inherent in Intervention 1	**Indicator**: Area at high risk of erosion restored (ha) **Baseline (2025)**: 332,861 ha **Targets**: 550,000 (2030) → 640,000 (2035) **Funding**: USD 700 million **Leads:** RWB
6	Restore degraded critical ecosystems (wetlands, lakeshores, riparian zones)	*(Part of "wetlands restoration" in NDC 2.0)*	**Timeline**: 2020–2025 & 2025–2030 **Targets**: ✓ **Funding**: included in Intervention 1	**Indicator**: Area restored & managed (ha) **Baseline (2025)**: 1,852 ha **Targets**: 3,300 (2030) → 4,414 (2035) **Funding**: USD 107 million **Leads**: MoE (RWB)

Source: Compiled by authors, based on Rwanda's NDC 2.0 and NDC 3.0.

In the mining sector, under NDC 2.0, Rwanda committed USD 59.3 million over two 5-year phases to promote climate-compatible mining; however, it fell short of defining the number of companies that should adopt greener practices or how environmental remediation would be measured. This general "green mining" framework supported capacity-building workshops, pilot demonstrations, and regulatory reviews but left uptake and impact largely unquantified. Consequently, investors and communities lacked clear milestones against which to assess progress in the mining sector, and the connection between funding and outcomes remained ambiguous.

In contrast, NDC 3.0 transforms these broad commitments into a precisely specified, outcome-driven strategy. By 2025, it asserts that 74.5% of mining companies will be deploying climate-compatible methods—up from an unmeasured baseline—and establishes a clear trajectory to achieve 90% adoption by 2030 and full compliance by 2035, under a budget of USD 23.19 million.

Table 3. Comparative analysis of mining interventions in NDC 2.0 (2020–2030) versus NDC 3.0 (2025–2035)

SN	Intervention	Indicator	NDC 2.0 (2020–2030)	NDC 3.0 (2025–2035)
	Climate-compatible mining	% companies with climate-compatible practices	**Timeline**: 2020–2025 & 2025–2030 **Targets**: ✓ **Funding**: USD 59.3 million	**Baseline (2025)**: 74.5 % **Targets**: 90% (2030) → 100 % (2035) **Funding**: USD 23.2 million **Leads**: MoE/MINICOM (RMB), private sector, civil society
		# abandoned mining/quarry sites rehabilitated	*(Not tracked)*	**Baseline (2025)**: 0 sites **Target (2030)**: 994 sites **Funding**: – (cost rolled into broader mining budget) **Leads**: MoE/MINICOM (RMB), private sector

Source: Compiled by authors, based on Rwanda's NDC 2.0 and NDC 3.0.

This graduated approach enables regulators at REMA and RMB to assess the industry's transition at regular intervals and to align technical assistance directly with underperforming firms. Equally significant is the introduction of a remediation target: 994 abandoned quarry and mine sites must be rehabilitated by 2030.

By embedding these remediation costs into sector budgets rather than treating them as ad hoc projects, NDC 3.0 establishes environmental restoration as a standard component of mining operations. Collectively, these refinements transition the sector from general capacity-building to concrete, verifiable outcomes, thereby strengthening both accountability and investor confidence in Rwanda's green mining agenda.

Taken as a whole, the transition from NDC 2.0 to NDC 3.0 reflects Rwanda's shift from framework-level commitments to a more detailed, enforcement-oriented, and finance-driven strategy. By specifying baselines, timelines, and funding envelopes for each intervention, NDC 3.0 facilitates closer performance monitoring, clearer institutional accountability, and greater confidence among domestic and international investors that adaptation goals will be met.

6.0 Conclusion and the Way Forward

6.1 Conclusion

The transition from NDC 2.0 to NDC 3.0 marks a decisive step in Rwanda's climate adaptation journey. By embedding precise, phased targets into water security and mining interventions—backed by robust cost estimates and clear institutional mandates—NDC 3.0 moves beyond broad statements of intent to deliverable outcomes. It aligns adaptation metrics with national strategies (NST-2, CENR, GGCRS) and international frameworks (Paris Agreement, Kunming-Montreal), while integrating gender and social inclusion at every stage. The strengthened MEL framework ensures that baselines, SMART indicators, and financing plans are documented and actionable.

As a result, Rwanda is positioned to marshal both domestic and external resources more effectively, drive private sector engagement through its Green Taxonomy and Investment Policy, and track progress in real time. This detailed, finance-ready framework provides the foundation for a resilient, equitable, and nature-based adaptation pathway that will safeguard communities and ecosystems through 2035 and beyond.

6.2 Way Forward

Turning NDC 3.0 into action requires a coordinated rollout across government, the private sector, and civil society. Key steps include the following:

1. **Disseminate NDC 3.0 across all sectors**: Upon publication, distribute the final NDC 3.0 document to ministries, agencies, private investors, development partners, and district administrations. Host sector-specific briefings to ensure clarity on targets, roles, and reporting requirements.
2. **Incorporate indicators into national planning and budgets**: Fast-track the integration of finalized targets and the MEL framework into NST 2 annual work plans, sector budgets, and the CENR implementation schedule for fiscal year 2025/26.
3. **Mobilize finance and partnerships**: Activate the Climate and Nature Finance Strategy's blended finance facilities, green bonds, and carbon market mechanisms. Engage private investors under the 2023 Green Taxonomy to close funding gaps.
4. **Strengthen data systems and reporting**: Upgrade hydro-information platforms, ambient monitoring networks, and mining registries to capture indicator data in real time. Publish an annual NDC 3.0 progress report beginning Q4 2025.
5. **Expand capacity and inclusivity**: Deliver targeted training for district officers, mining inspectors, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) practitioners. Roll out the GESI Simulation Tool across all adaptation workstreams to monitor social and gender impacts.
6. **Adaptive management and continuous improvement**: Form an interministerial NDC 3.0 steering committee to review performance twice a year, recommend course corrections, and align emerging climate risks with national priorities.

By following these steps, Rwanda will embed NDC 3.0's strengthened framework within everyday planning and investment decisions, ensuring measurable progress in water security, sustainable mining, and inclusive resilience.

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