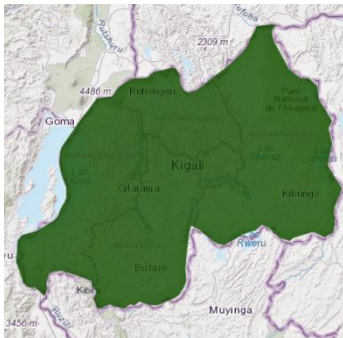


RWANDA



Source: esri

General

Rwanda - officially the Republic of Rwanda - is located in Central and East Africa. It is one of the smallest countries on the African mainland. Located a few degrees south of the Equator, Rwanda is bordered by Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The area of the country is 2.6 Mha (million hectares) with in 2020 a population of 13.0 million, or 5.0 persons per ha (Wikipedia and United Nations, 2019).

Climate and geography

The climate in Rwanda is temperate to subtropical, with lower temperatures than are typical for equatorial countries because of its high elevation. Kigali, in the centre of the country, has a typical daily temperature range between 12 and 27 °C, with little variation through the year. There are some temperature variations across the country; the mountainous West and North are generally cooler than the lower-lying east. There are two rainy seasons in the year; the first runs from February to June and the second from September to December. The rainy seasons are separated by two dry seasons: the major one from June to September, during which there is often no rain at all, and a shorter and less severe one from December to February. Rainfall varies geographically, with the West and Northwest of the country receiving more precipitation annually than the East and Southeast.

The divide between the major Congo and Nile river basins runs from North to South through the country, with around 80% of the country's area draining into the Nile and 20% into the Congo via the Rusizi River and Lake Tanganyika. The country's longest river is the Nyabarongo, which originates in the South-west, flows North, East and Southeast before merging with the Ruvubu River to form the Kagera River. The Kagera River then flows due North along the eastern border with Tanzania. The Nyabarongo-Kagera eventually drains into Lake Victoria. Rwanda has many lakes, the largest, Lake Kivu occupies the floor of the Albertine Rift along most of the length of Rwanda's western border. Other sizeable lakes include Burera, Ruhondo, Muhazi, Rweru, and Ihema (source: Wikipedia).

General characteristics of the existing polder in Rwanda are shown in Table I.

Existing polders

A pilot polder of 300 ha is situated in the Nyabarongo valley upstream of Kibungo and Kassense (Group Polder Development, 1982).

Proposed polders

No proposed polders could be identified.

References

Group Polder Development, 1982. *Polders of the World. Compendium of polder projects*. Delft, the Netherlands

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. 2019. *World population prospects, medium prognosis. The 2019 revision*. New York, USA.

Bart Schultz

Lelystad, January 2021

Table I. General characteristics of the existing polder in Rwanda

| Name | Reclamation | Area in ha | Type *) | Latitudes | Longitudes | Elevation in m+MSL | Land use |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|------------|---------|-----------|------------|--------------------|----------|
| Pilot polder in the Nyabarongo Valley | | 300 | RLL | 2° 10' S | 30° 15' E | 1332 | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Total | | 300 | | | | | |

*) RLL = reclaimed low-lying land; LGS = land gained on the sea; DL = drained lake

Table II. Characteristics of the water management and flood protection system of the existing polder in Rwanda

| Name | Design criteria in chance of occurrence/year | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|------------|---------------------------------|-------|
| | Water management | | | | | Flood protection in chance/year | |
| | Drainage | | | | Irrigation | Rural | Urban |
| | Type | Design criterion | Percentage of open water | Discharge capacity | | | |
| | | | m ³ /s | mm/day | | | |
| Pilot polder in the Nyabarongo Valley | RLL | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |