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## The Launching of the Science and Policy Nexus Programme in Rwanda

*“From Climate and Biodiversity Science to Action - Redynamizing the Role of Science and Citizens in Shaping Effective Climate Adaptation and Ecosystem Restoration Measures in Rwanda”*

Friday, 29 September 2023

9:00 AM - 1:30 PM followed by a Lunch and Networking

At the University of Rwanda, College of Science and Technology (Kigali Conference and Exhibition Village, Kigali Hall), KN 7Ave, Kigali/Rwanda : Link to the venue map: [here](#)

### RATIONALE

Meeting the 2030 goal of the UN decade of ecosystem restoration and the 2050 Paris goal to pursue efforts to limit the global warming below 1.5 degree Celsius, allows countries to not only prevent, halt and reverse degradation of their ecosystems but also enables countries to achieve sustainable economic growth ensuring people's wellbeing in harmony with nature and all life on earth. The vital link between climate change and biodiversity is inseparable and addressing both challenges requires collaboration across borders. The use of the best and most relevant science, promoting citizen science and their meaningful participation in both science and policy processes plays an important role in achieving this. Globally, effective use of the best available scientific and research knowledge in making decisions and creating policies by some governments is still in early stages with decisions being made based on social, economic and political factors which affect nature negatively or positively without much regard to evidence, while others carefully draw on research.

The Science and Policy Nexus initiative under the funding and support by the Federal Foreign Office, Germany aims at fostering collaboration towards an increased role of science and citizens in achieving effective climate adaptation and ecosystem restoration measures in Rwanda.

### AGENDA

From 09:00 -10:00	Arrival, Registration and Coffee Yvette Kamwezi, facilitators
10:00 - 11:00	Welcome and Opening Remarks  The role of universities in cultivating and supporting knowledge brokers, how do we improve the supply of the best and most relevant scientific knowledge needed for policy and decision-making?, what structural connections between universities/think tanks and policy/decision-making spheres? Dr Ignace Gatara, Principal, College of Science and

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### *Technology*

**Key Note address on the role of the best and most relevant scientific knowledge in informing Rwanda's biodiversity and climate policies, strategies and plans, How do we improve the demand for the best and most relevant scientific knowledge in policy and decision-making, how do we connect the supply and demand better? What cross-sectorial approach and citizens entry points in addressing both climate change and biodiversity loss?**

*Mr Philippe KWITONDA, Director General of Land, Water and Forestry, Ministry of Environment.*

**Remarks on the global climate diplomacy and multilateralism, how can science be at the heart and Centre of globally inclusive policy shaping and decision-making to enable for effective climate adaptation, mitigation, halt biodiversity loss and redress loss and damage? How can policymakers, researches and citizens navigate, adapt and effectively collaborate around highly evolving and complex global trends (the science tells truth and politicians or mega-polluters may see it the other way round)?**

*Mr Clemens Siddhartha Häusler, Deputy Head of Development Cooperation, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Kigali*

**Master Presentation of findings on the current role of science and citizens in shaping effective climate adaptation and ecosystem restoration measures and the synthesis analysis of climate adaptation projects establishing vital link between climate change and biodiversity sectors in Rwanda.**

*Ms Sandrine Uwase, Research Fellow, Centre of Excellence in Biodiversity & Natural Resources Management, Univ of Rwanda, Programme Research Assistant.*

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11:00 - 11:45

**Moderated Panel Discussion - How can science support Policy makers and practitioners to find the best solutions**

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in responding to climate risks, ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss? How can policy better inform research priorities/ needs, How can citizens including youth play more of meaningful role in science-policy processes?

*Dr Pascal Lopez, Rwanda's Climate, Energy, and Sustainable Urban Development Cluster, Initiation of a science and research network for climate cooperation, Implementation manager, Programme Advisor.*

*Dr Vicky Kondi: Resident Researcher in Climate Science, AIMS Research Center, Lead of GEDI at AIMS-Rwanda*

*Mr Emmanuel Sindikubwabo, Executive Director, We Do GREEN Organization, Programme Coordinator.*

**Panel Moderator: Prof. Beth A. Kaplin,**  
*Director, Center of Excellence in Biodiversity & Natl Res Management (CoEB), University of Rwanda*  
*Professor, College of Science & Technology, University of Rwanda*  
*Affiliated Research Professor, School for the Environment, University Massachusetts-Boston, USA*

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11:45 - 12: 00

**Q&A session**

*Moderator/MC*

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12:00 - 12: 10

**A song and a poem on vital link between climate change and biodiversity**

*High school students-Climate Justice Stewards*

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12:10 - 12: 25

**Take Away & Closing Remarks**

*Moderator/MC: (Summary of technical inputs/Key Notes from conversations).*

**Closing remarks**

**Mr Philippe KWITONDA, Director General of Land, Water and Forestry, Ministry of Environment.**

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12: 25 - 12: 30

**A Group Photo**

*All*

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12: 30 - 13: 30

**Lunch and Networking**

*All*

**Raise your voice lab and Photo booth**

*Citizens including youth*

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**Language: *English***

**Event MC: Ms Benie Umunezero**

**Target participants: 250 (from citizens, science and policy spheres)**

**\* All times refer to Central African Time (CAT)**