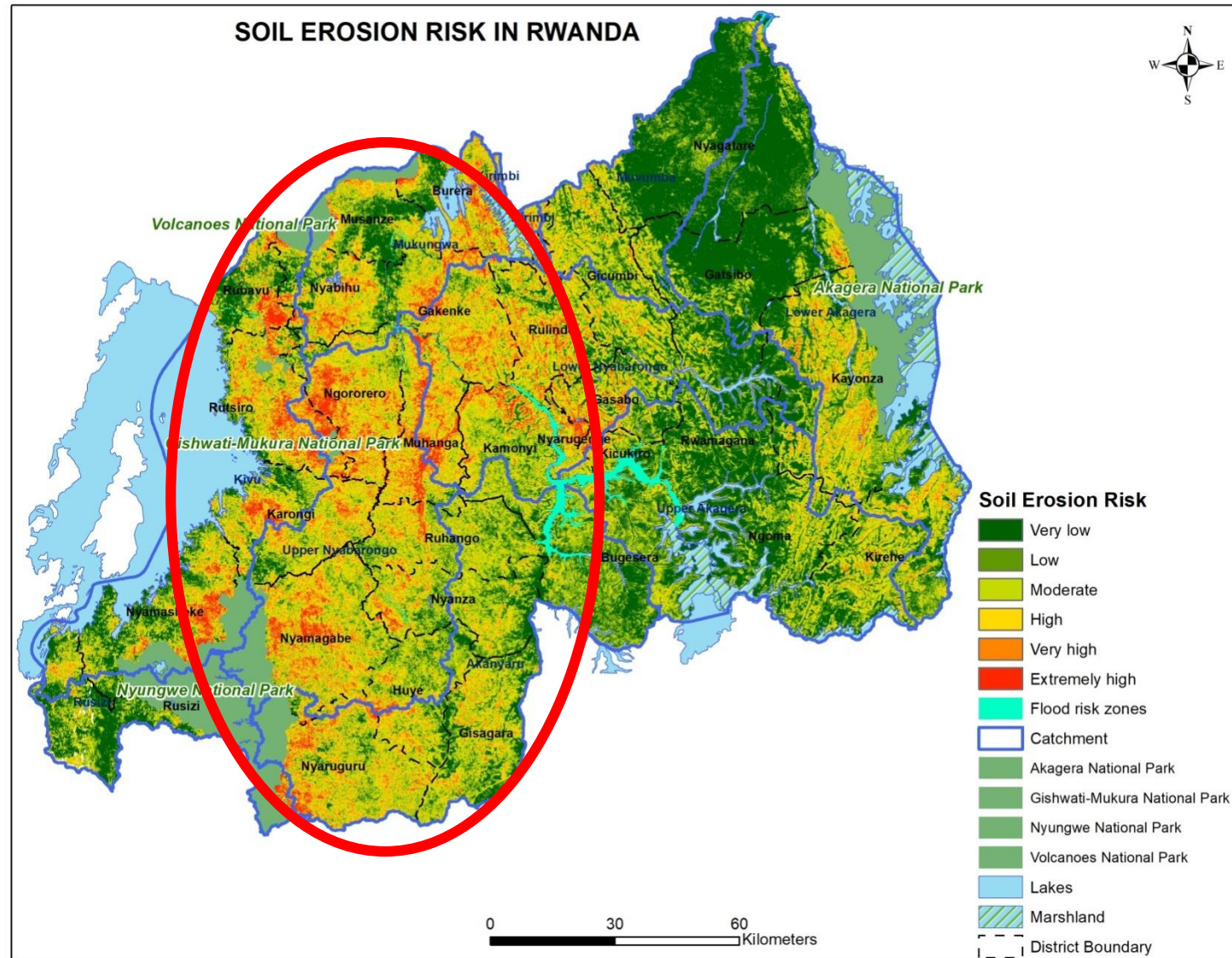


# Water law and Catchment Management Committee

Kwitonda Philippe

# Areas exposed to soil erosion















# Introduction to Law N°49/2018 of 13/08/2018 determining the use and management of water resources in Rwanda

## Guiding principles:

- **Prevent pollution** of water with priority to source
- **Precaution:** Activities considered or suspected to have negative impacts on water resources shall not be implemented.
- **Integrated management of water resources within catchment**, taking into account the interests of all water users, land and other natural resources and related ecosystems;
- **Participation**,
- **Subsidiarity** :water resources development and protection at the lowest appropriate level.











# Natural and artificial water

- Streams and rivers
- Lakes
- Wetlands
- Springs
- Groundwater
- Dams and reservoirs
- Rainwater







# Water resources management Institutions

- **The Authority (IWRMD/RWFA)** is in charge of implementation of policies, strategies and regulations relating to water resources management.
- **The National Water Consultative Committee** to be consulted and to provide recommendations on all matters related to multi-sectoral coordination in integrated water resources planning and management
- **Catchment Committees** to be established at catchment level. They support the Districts and other partners in the development of catchment management plans and monitor their implementation
- **Decentralised entities** (District, Sector, Cell, Village). They contribute to the protection and development of water resources.



# Priority for water allocation

The State owns and controls water resources.

All persons are entitled to an equitable and reasonable share on the water resources available. However, in allocating water resources the priority is given to:

- 1º domestic needs;
- 2º environmental protection;
- 3º economic activities.





# Water Resources Planning

- **National Water Resources Master Plan** which is established by Ministry in charge of water resources. The National Water Resources Master Plan guides all water resources plans. The current National Water Resources Master Plan was approved by Cabinet in October 2015
- **Catchment Management Plans:** elaborated by the Authority in charge of water resources in collaboration with **decentralized entities (Districts)** where the catchment is located. The catchment management plans have to be in conformity with national water resources master plan.
- Given responsibilities of decentralized entities under the water law with regard to water resources, these entities are required to put in their annual implementation plans the activities related to water resources protection and use.

# Water Resources monitoring

- The State has obligation to establish mechanisms of coordinating the monitoring of water resources quantity, quality and use of water resources of each catchment.
- The data collected during monitoring process will be contained in water resources information system, and those data are in relation with hydrometeorology, quantity and quality of surface and groundwater, water use and any other data and information as may be needed.





# Water permits

- The following activities and works are subject to a water use permit:
  - 1) Irrigation of a land surface of more than 1 ha;
  - 2) Abstraction of surface or ground water with motorized pump or non-motorized pump;
  - 3) The construction of any infrastructure on the banks of, or inside rivers or lakes;
  - 4) The construction of a dam;
  - 5) Excavation of bed materials from water bodies;
  - 6) The use of water body or parts thereof, for industrial fisheries or aquaculture, recreation or sports, oil or gas extraction, or other industrial or commercial activities
  - 7) The exploitation of thermal water sources
  - 8) Deviation of a river or any other water body





# Fees

- Application fee (New permit)
- Water use fee (paid annually and which differ according to the water use)
- Fee for permit renewal
- Fee for permit transfer

# ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS, OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

- Water use or water-related activity without a water use permit
- Penalties for dumping, spilling or depositing anything that may pollute water resources



# What do other regulations say?

- LAW N°48/2018 OF 13/08/2018 ON ENVIRONMENT
- Acts prohibited:
  - to dump any solid, liquid waste or hazardous gaseous substances in a stream, river, swamp, pond, lake and in their surroundings
  - to damage the quality of the surface or underground water;
  - to dump, spill or deposit materials of any nature that may cause or increase water pollution;
  - to wash minerals in streams or lakes;

# Prohibited acts

- To build an agricultural and livestock installation in a distance of ten metres (10 m) away from the banks of streams and rivers and fifty metres (50 m) away from the lake banks;
- To build a cattle kraal, slaughter house, cattle market in a distance of sixty metres (60 m) away from the banks of streams and rivers and two hundred metres (200 m) away from the lake banks;
- To build in water sources, streams, rivers and lakes and in the buffer zone in a distance of ten metres (10 m) away from streams and fifty metres (50 m) away from lakes;













THANKS