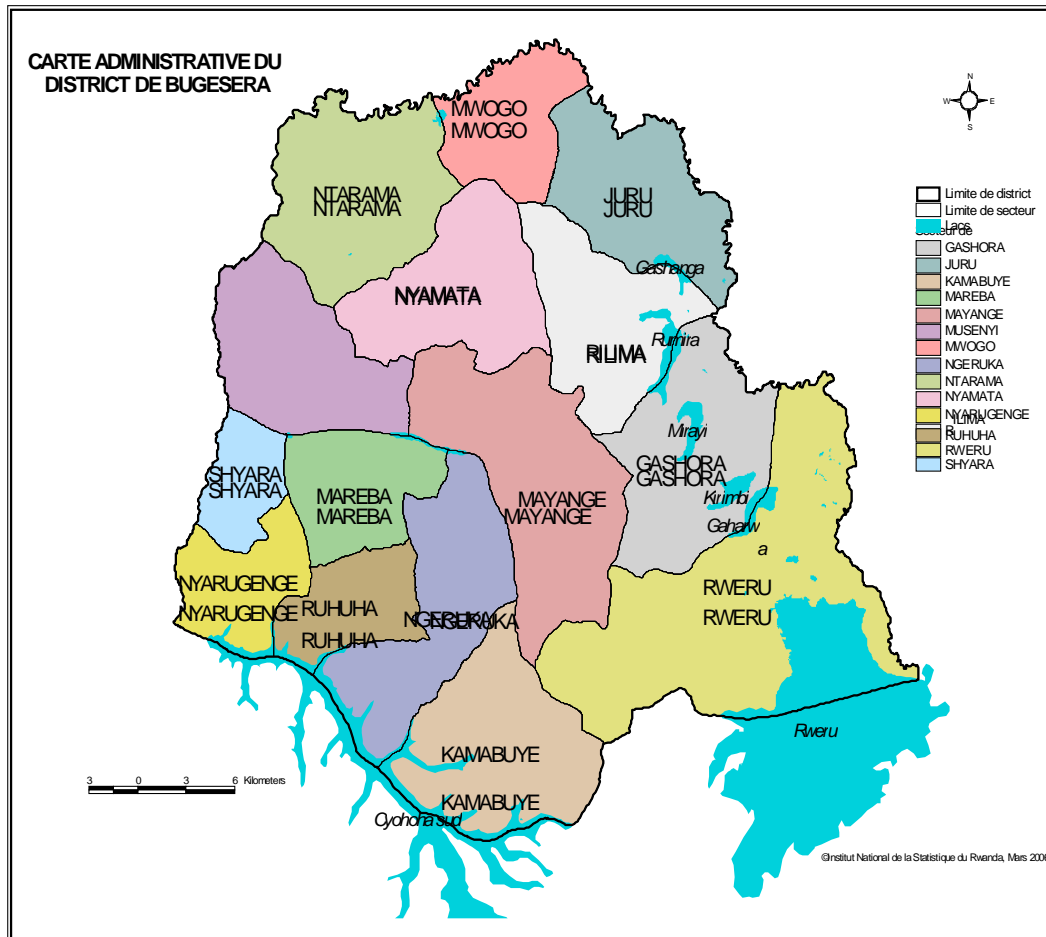


# 1. INTRODUCTION TO BUGESERA DISTRICT

## Administrative Map of Bugesera District



## 2. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF BUGESERA DISTRICT

### Demographic features

Bugesera is one of seven Districts of the Eastern Province in Rwanda. It covers a total surface area of 1337 Km<sup>2</sup>. The district is composed of 15 Sectors, 72 Cells and 581 Villages with a total Population of 363,339 people, where 177,404 are males and 185,935 are females. (General Population census: 2012). Its Population Average Annual Growth Rate is 3,1%, with a population density of 282 people per km<sup>2</sup>.

Below is an illustrative graph showing demographic characteristics of Bugesera in the context of Eastern Province and Rwanda.

## Demographic characteristics of Bugesera

| District                | 2002 Total Population | 2012 Population  |                  |                   | Population change (2002-2012) (%) | Average Annual Growth Rate (2002-2012) (%) | Population Density (sq.km) |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
|                         |                       | Male             | Female           | Total             |                                   |  |                            |
| Bugesera                | 266,775               | 177,404          | 185,935          | 363,339           | 36.2                              | 3.1  | 282                        |
| <b>Eastern Province</b> | <b>1,700,137</b>      | <b>1,257,750</b> | <b>1,343,064</b> | <b>2,600,814</b>  | <b>53.0</b>                       | <b>4.3</b>                                 | <b>275</b>                 |
| <b>Rwanda</b>           | <b>8,128,553</b>      | <b>5,074,942</b> | <b>5,462,280</b> | <b>10,537,222</b> | <b>29.6</b>                       | <b>2.6</b>                                 | <b>416</b>                 |

Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), 2012.

### District geographical location

Bugesera District is located in the South Eastern plains of Rwanda notably in the south west of the Eastern Province. It borders Republic of Burundi (Kirundo Province) in the south, Ngoma district in the East, Kigali city and Rwamagana district in the North. The district is sandwiched between Rivers Nyabarongo and Akanyaru which converge at the southern part to form Akagera River. Bugesera district's area is characterized by numerous lakes, the biggest of which are Rweru and Cyohoha. These two plus the other seven small lakes in the region comprise an estimated surface area of 10,635 hectares (MINITERE/CERECE 2003). The region is predominantly vegetated by dry savannas which are characterized by short grasses, shrubs and short trees-a characteristic of arid and semi-arid areas (MINITERE/CERECE 2003).

### Physical aspects

The topography of Bugesera is characterized with a mixture of plateaus with an altitude varying between 1,100 m and 1,780m and undulating hills dominated by varying heights. Most prominent of these hills are: Kabuye (1,772m the highest), Juru (1,667m), Maranyundo (1,614 m), and Mwendo (1575m). The relief is also constituted by a succession of low-plateaus with hills and dry valleys. The district is equally rich in marshlands alongside rivers; they cover an estimated area of 6,100 ha and are exploited at an average of 46.3% (Community Development Plan of Bugesera district, 2006).

### Climate

Compared to other regions of the country, Bugesera climate is dry with temperature varying between 20 and 30°C. The temperature average range is between 26 and 29°C. In the past the district was turning into a dessert zone. However with increased government effort, the district

had been afforested. Natural resources were also protected. This improved on its climatic conditions. Currently, the district has two dry periods and two rainy periods.

**The table below shows Bugesera's climatic seasons**

| Climatic season             | Duration                | Local name for the period |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>A short dry season</b>   | January to mid march    | <i>Urugaryi</i>           |
| <b>Long rainy season</b>    | Mid march to June       | <i>Itumba</i>             |
| <b>Long dry season</b>      | Mid June to September   | <i>Impeshyi</i>           |
| <b>A short rainy season</b> | Mid October to December | <i>Umuhindo</i>           |

Retrieved from <http://www.bugesera.gov.rw/index.php?id=495> on 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2012.

### **Hydrography**

Bugesera district hydrographical network is mainly characterized by 3 rivers, namely Akanyaru, Akagera and Nyabarongo. Besides rivers, Bugesera has 9 lakes which are:

L. Rweru (1857 ha on Rwandan side), Cyohoha North, Cyohoha South (630 ha on Rwandan side) Gashanga (232 ha), Kidogo (220 ha), Rumira (280 ha), Mirayi (230 ha), Kirimbi (230 ha) and Gaharwa (230 ha). The seven lakes were formed as a result of Akagera river over flow, except lake Rweru and lake Cyohoha South.

However these lakes have little effect on rainfall formation. They are mainly used for fishing, tourism, irrigation and farming.

### **Flora**

In Bugesera, two plant formations remarkably dominate: the savannas densely shrubs covering the hills and the grassy savannas covering the dry valleys and the trays of the hills.

The vegetation is composed largely by the acacia trees, euphorbiac and the cactuses intertwined with gramineous and spiny bushes. One also observes other rare species that are not gigantic but support the bushes and trailing lianas.

The grassy savannas: they are in the dry valleys and on the trays of hills and the dominant species are: botriochlora, hyparrhenia filipendula, sporobulus, pyramidalis, themedatriandra in the dry valleys and on the trays of hills: andropogondiimeri, brachyariaeminnii, hyparrhenialecontee, brachyariadictnonaura, heteropogon, centertus and laudetiasimplese.

The shrubby savannas: This part of vegetation occupies the biggest part of the whole vegetation and has different types of bushes sprinkled among the herbs of the prairies. The savannah, yellow-straw colour is in some places stained of green bushes and latches to thorns serving stanchions to the lianas and other voluble species (Umugunga, umukomagabo, umushabishabi, etc). This vegetation is largely threatened by agriculturalists.

## Fauna

Today, the District is largely inhabited but still has some land for other various activities. The colonization of this former reserve of hunt and vast prairies started in 1960s following the flooding that destroyed the fields and the dwellings in the valley of the Akagera on one hand, and with the flux of immigrants from other regions and provinces of the country in search for farm land on the other hand. The various wild animal species were forced into exodus toward the National Park. Nevertheless, one finds the ant eaters, mice, a multitude of species, birds which live either in the bushes, the groves, the big trees or in the terriers.

In the lakes, marshes and the rivers of Nyabarongo, Akanyaru and Akagera; one can find hippos, the Crocodiles, the turtles, the water birds, the ducks and the wild geese. The lakes of the district contain fish species such as tilapia, clarias, soles, mud fish and silurids.

### 3. THE KEY PRIORITIES FOR BUGESERA DISTRICT

Emphasis is put on five key priorities derived from the District Development Plan (2013-2018). These key priorities are:

| <b>Key Priorities</b>   | <b>Thematic area it contributes to;</b>  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>1. Promote tourism activities on virgin sites around the lakes RUMIRA, Mirayi, Kirimbi and Kidogo:</b></p> <p>Bird tracking alone cannot transform Bugesera. With the airport and industrial zone, tourism sector will be boosted. Lakes shall be restocked with fish and establishment of beaches, nautical sports , promoting historical places like “urwobo rwbyanga”, building a zoological place to tap the upcoming airport opportunities, developing tourist infrastructures on all lakes with likes of lake Rweru and its islands of Mazane and Sharita will be targeted. Transport and communication network, art and craft will be boosted.</p>                             | Economic transformation for rapid growth. rural development, productivity and youth employment |
| <p><b>2. Promote private investment in Fish Farming in nine (9) existing lakes and Fish ponds:</b></p> <p>Fishing shall be promoted using lakes, rivers and fish farming in ponds to create more off-farm jobs. Bugesera shall develop by far the largest fishing industry (fish farming, fish catching, fish processing and distribution) and hence, making the district a leader in processing and tinning fish in the sub region.</p> <p>The success of fish farming will be premised upon the public private partnership, where the District shall take a leading role to attract the investors in fishing sector by putting in place conducive investment climate in the District.</p> | Economic transformation for rapid growth. rural development, productivity and youth employment |
| <p><b>3. Infrastructure development</b> (rural electrification, water supply, transport and industrial park):</p>   | Economic transformation for rapid growth. rural  |

| <b>Key Priorities</b>   | <b>Thematic area it contributes to;</b>   |
|---|---|
| <p>This will include construction and operationalization of Industrial park, Hotels and Guest houses; targeting Bugesera Airport opportunities. This will attract business, investors, services providers and tourists to boost off-farm jobs.</p> <p>In the last 5 years power rollout has been for lighting and water for home use, these shall continue . However, large scale water and power shall be distributed in preparation of upcoming industrial zone and airport opportunities. Besides huge water supply shall improve rural health. Safe water access will reach 100% and rural electrification will be at 70%. Tarmac and muram/feeder roads will also be constructed.</p> <p>In addition, the airport and railway line will attract businesses, investors, service providers, tourists, infrastructures, particularly the expansion of 2 lanes of Kigali-Bugesera and Kabuga-Bugesera roads shall be upgraded into 8 lanes. The railway project will later boost this when it takes off in 2018.</p> | <p>development, productivity and youth employment</p>   |
| <p><b>4. Agricultural Development through land consolidation, mechanization and irrigation:</b></p> <p>In the past, agriculture did not help Bugesera to take off since it remained semi traditional. Emphasis shall be on mechanisation, large scale irrigation projects, livestock transformation, and non traditional livestock farming like chicken, rabbits, and beef. This will target value addition to generate more revenue from agricultural production. To ensure market for the production, efforts should also be directed to opening up opportunities (value-market chain).</p>   | <p>Economic transformation for rapid growth. rural development, productivity and youth employment</p> |
| <p><b>5. Development of off-farm activities:</b></p> <p>Skills development through scaling up <b>Agakiro</b> program for skills development will boost job creation. The District shall enhance partnership with private sector with strong focus in mining sector based on existing minerals. This will address the challenge of over relying on agriculture which alone cannot absorb all the manpower.</p> <p>Bugesera shall have by far the largest industrial zone/ park only followed by Kigali. This shall have all necessary infrastructures to accommodate heavy and light industries which is expected to promote off-farm activities.</p>  | <p>Economic transformation for rapid growth. rural development, productivity and youth employment</p> |

#### **4. THE KEY POTENTIAL AREAS OF COOPERATION.**

The District Development Plan (DDP) for the next five years points out the 5 key priorities as outlined above. From these priorities, the District derives the following as key potential areas for cooperation:

## **Key Potentials areas for cooperation:**

### **1. Tourism Development.**

- The District intends to develop tourism activities along the 9 lakes of Bugesera District.
- Develop historical places which include Urwoborwabayanga
- Develop islands of Mazana and Sharita to become exemplary tourist destinations.
- Build a zoological place to tap upcoming air port opportunities
- The great River of the country "Nyabarongo-Akagera", that divides Bugesera district with the Rwamagana and Ngoma. is home to hippos, crocodiles in Kidogo, Mirayi and Gashanga lakes that may interest tourists.
- There are other tourists' places equipped to know : Lake Cyohoha South islands and Sharita, Mazane, Juru and Nemba Urwobo rwa Bayanga, marshes and valleys, savannah where animals and birds are found.
- Most prominent hills of Kabuye (1,772m the highest), Juru (1,667m), Maranyundo (1,614 m), and Mwendu (1575m) are ideal for tourism development in Bugesera District.

### **2. Promote investment in Fish Farming in nine (9) existing lakes and Fish ponds:**

- Fishing shall be promoted using lakes, rivers and fish farming in ponds to create more off-farm jobs.
- Bugesera shall develop by far the largest fishing industry (fish farming, fish catching, fish processing and distribution) and hence, making the district a leader in processing and tinning fish in the sub region.

### **3. Water Transport Development.**

- Water transport will be developed on lakes where tourism is taking place.
- Boat racing and zoo development will be enhanced on Lake Rweru
- Boat sailing, trips and diving will boost tourism industry along major lakes of Bugesera District. The clear, calm, warm and tideless waters of major lakes in Bugesera District makes it a center for recreation and tourist attraction in the Eastern Province.

### **4. Environmental Protection around lakes.**

- The Ministry of Natural Resources (MINIRENA) has pledged to reach 30% of the natural forest cover by 2017. The plan to increase forest dominated landscape from current figure which stands at 23% to reach 30% by 2017 is a commitment from the ministry so as to increase natural resource coverage. This is an opportunity for harnessing natural resources for Bugesera District.

The environmental protection policy sets out the following:

- River banks are protected at 10 meters to avoid encroachment on water and other resources
- Wetlands/ marshlands are protected at 20 meters to avoid encroachment on biodiversity
- Lakes are protected at 50 meters to avoid encroachment on water and aquifers as well as human risks related to water accident.