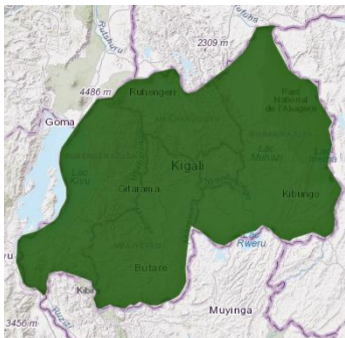


RWANDA



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 in the North, Tanzania in the East, Burundi in the South and the Congo-Kinshasa in the South. The area of the country is 2.6 Mha (million hectares) with, in 2024, a population of 14.3 million, or 5.5 persons per ha (Wikipedia and United Nations, 2024).

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 (source: Wikipedia).

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 Victoria. 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 River 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).

Existing polder

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

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

Proposed polders

No proposed polders could be identified.

Location of the polder in Rwanda as shown on the World polder map

The location of the polder in Rwanda is shown in Figure 1.

References

Group Polder Development, Department of Civil Engineering, Delft University of Technology, 1982.

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United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. 2024. *World population prospects, medium prognosis. The 2024 revision.* New York, USA.

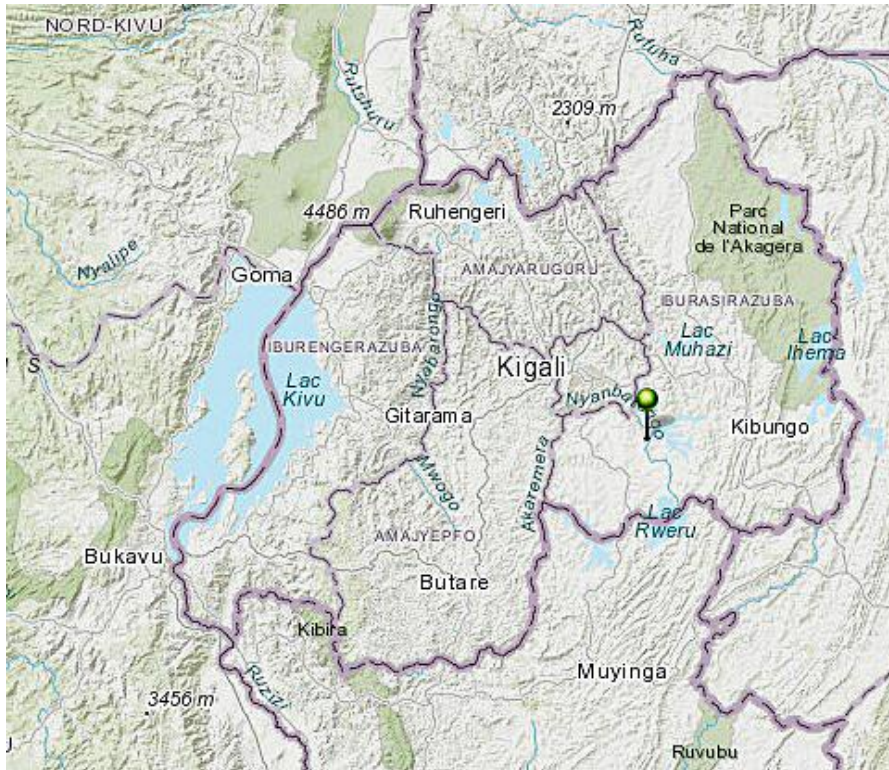


Figure 1. Location of the polder in Rwanda (source: esri – Batavialand)

Bart Schultz

Lelystad, October 2024

Table I. General characteristics of existing polders 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 | Agriculture |
| Total | | 300 | | | | | |

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