

# Catchment Restoration in Rwanda

CROM DSS: a GIS model to support decision making on catchment restoration

AfricaGIS 2019

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Kingdom of the Netherlands

Integrated Water Resources Management Programme (2015-2019)

Funded by Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Beneficiary: Water Resources Management Department of Rwanda Water & Forestry Authority, Ministry of Environment

Implemented by Mott MacDonald (lead partner), SHER, SNV

CROM DSS jointly developed by Mott MacDonald, Esri Rwanda, SHER, RWFA-WRMD





# The problem

Catchment degradation, soil erosion and downstream impacts



Seasonal tillage, bare soils on steep slopes



### Impact: silt build-up in reservoirs



# Impact: high sediment loads hampering hydropower production





Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

# It can take up to 1 000 years to produce just 2-3 cm of soil

World Soil Day 2019

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# The request

Identify soil erosion control opportunities in 4 catchments of Water for Growth Rwanda

## Identify restoration opportunities in 4 catchments

IWRM programme 'Water for Growth Rwanda' (2015-2019)





# The response

Integrated solution:

- spatial analysis instrument bringing science to policy
- participatory process locally owned solutions

## Step 1: Identify soil erosion risks

#### Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE) in ArcGIS Model Builder









## Participatory decision-making: Micro-Catchment Action Plans

#### Global science, local solutions





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20 November 2019

## **Micro-Catchment Action Plan**

Result of participatory process with communities / land owners



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Image © 2019 Maxar Technologies

## Google Earth

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Imagery Date: 1/17/2015 1°43'03.42" S 29°23'34.37" E elev 2347 m eye alt 2.56 km 🔘





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Image © 2019 CNES / Airbus

#### Imagery Date: 7/2/2019 1º43'06.64" S 29º23'33.90" E elev 2346 m eye alt 2.56 km 🔘



7/2/2019

## Magnitude of the problem in Rwanda

Detailed analysis of medium – extremely high risk areas (20/30 districts analysed)

In North, West, South, 33% (467,000 ha) is at high – extremely high risk

67% of identified high erosion risk land is not to date protected and 61% of it is mainly located in Agricultural land

More details in presentation by Philippe Kwitonda, Rwanda Water Resources Management Department



# Institutional embedding

Initial take up and sustainable integration in Ministry of Environment and at Districts

# Finally... evidence based decision making!

Hon. Vincent Biruta Minister of Environment June 2018, during development of CROM DSS

## Institutional embedding

Water for Growth Rwanda supported full embedding in Government of Rwanda

Close collaboration with inter-ministerial task force on mitigation of landslides and soil erosion

MoE Report 'Mapping of Erosion in Rwanda and Guidelines for Erosion Control'

MoE instructed districts to use GIS and CROM DSS in planning and reporting

W4GR trained all 30 districts of Rwanda in use of ArcGIS

Supported on-screen interpretation of 0.25 m Remote Sensing imagery for LULC and soil conservation measures in place

Supported firm institutional embedding of CROM DSS in Water Resources Management Department, and future Rwanda Water Resources Board



# Way forward

## Ongoing and future actions

#### MoE WRMD updating to CROM DSS 2019

Incorporating new LULC data from detailed RS imagery (World View 0.25 m) (20/30 districts) Consolidation of similar risk areas by merging values, followed by conversion to vector map

- Three (highest) risk classes
- Erosion features observable on World View images
- Existing land use / land cover classes
- Observed erosion control practices (**RUSLE P factor**)
- Recommendations for erosion control interventions (new or improved)

#### Quarterly updates from all districts of Rwanda

Planning

Reporting / Monitoring

#### Mott MacDonald incorporates CROM DSS in Nepal climate resilience project

# Global challenge – GIS community action needed urgently

#StopSoilErosion



ArcGIS Model Builder helps replication, bringing science to policy

Mott MacDonald can help governments integrate soil erosion control in integrated spatial planning towards achieving SDGs



# Murakoze cyane Thank you

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