

Final Report

Analysis of Agroecology and Related Policies in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo

for



Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF)

By



Projects Ontime Limited

April 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. BACKGROUND	1
3. OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSE	2
4. METHODOLOGY	2
5. CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS.....	3
5.1. NON-STATE ACTORS IN BURUNDI AND CONGO.....	5
6. FINDINGS.....	6
7. ANALYSIS OF AGROECOLOGY AND RELATED POLICIES IN BURUNDI.....	6
7.1. AGROECOLOGY STATE ACTORS IN BURUNDI.....	7
7.2. INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE IN BURUNDI.....	8
7.3. AGROECOLOGY PRACTICES AND CHALLENGES IN BURUNDI	9
7.4. AGROECOLOGY POLICIES, PLANS AND LAWS IN BURUNDI	10
8. ANALYSIS OF AGROECOLOGY AND RELATED POLICIES IN CONGO.....	11
8.1. AGROECOLOGY STATE ACTORS IN CONGO	12
8.2. INVESTMENTS IN AGRICULTURE IN CONGO	13
8.3. AGROECOLOGY RELATED POLICIES, PLANS AND LAWS IN CONGO	14
8.4. AGROECOLOGY PRACTICES AND CHALLENGES IN CONGO	14
9. RECOMMENDATIONS.....	15
9.1. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS	16
9.2. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FARMERS' ASSOCIATIONS.....	17
10. CONCLUSION	22
REFERENCES.....	23
ANNEXES	24
ANNEX I: AGROECOLOGY AND RELATED POLICIES DATABASE FOR CONGO AND BURUNDI.	24
ANNEX II: LIST OF ORGANISATIONS INTERVIEWED	78
ANNEX III: INTERVIEW GUIDE.....	79

Analysis of Agroecology and Related Policies in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo

This report has been compiled by Projects Ontime Consultants on behalf of the Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF). The core consulting team comprised Dr. Josiah Obare, Mr. Patrick Karanja, and Ms. Leah Ngugi.

We extend our gratitude to Jean Marie Ndayishimiye (CAPAD- Burundi), Sage Masinda (SYDIP - Congo), Kambale Katsongo Baylon (COOCENKI - Congo), Zawadi (LOFEPACO – Congo), and Fred Mumba (CONAPAC- Congo) for providing invaluable insights and information regarding the national agroecology and related policies in their respective countries. Special appreciation also goes to Robert Kubai (EAFF- Kenya) for his unwavering technical and administrative support throughout the process.



Head Office
Nairobi
Westlands, David Osieli Road,
Off Waiyaki Way,
P.O BOX 13747-00800 Nairobi, Kenya
T: +254 020 4451691
Email: info@eaffu.org

Head Office,
Nairobi
3rd Floor, Westcom Point Building
Westlands, Mahiga Mairu Ave, Off Waiyaki Way
Po Box 3268-01002, Madaraka
info@projectsontimeltd.com
<https://projectsontimeltd.com>

Analysis of Agroecology and Related Policies in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo

1. Introduction

The agricultural landscape in East Africa is undergoing a significant transformation, driven by the increasing recognition of agroecology as a viable strategy amidst mounting environmental challenges. Initiatives aimed at harnessing the potential of agroecology, such as "Building Local Economies in East Africa Through Agroecology," underscore the region's commitment to enhancing local economies and livelihoods. The establishment of agroecology hubs and projects further exemplifies the momentum towards sustainable agricultural practices in countries like Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The establishment of agroecology hubs, such as the LUANAR AE Hub in Malawi and the Sokoine AE Hub in Tanzania, and initiatives such as the DeSIRA LEG4DEV in Ethiopia, are geared towards bolstering farmers and organizations engaged in agroecological research and action. They also address critical sustainability issues like the water-food-energy nexus, food security, and livelihood resilience highlights a holistic approach to agricultural transformation.

Despite these commendable efforts, numerous challenges continue to impede the widespread adoption and advancement of agroecology across Eastern Africa. These obstacles range from systemic issues like top-down agricultural research methodologies to practical barriers such as limited access to modern technologies and fragmented smallholder farming communities. Recognizing the imperatives to address these challenges, the Eastern African Farmers Federation (EAFF), has embarked on a mission to strengthen agroecological policy processes in the region.

2. Background

In both Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), agroecology represents a significant opportunity for sustainable agricultural development and enhanced food security. In Burundi, where agriculture forms the backbone of the economy and employs the majority of the population, traditional farming methods have long been prevalent. However, these methods face challenges such as soil degradation, land fragmentation, deforestation, and the impacts of climate change, all of which contribute to low agricultural productivity and food insecurity.

To address these challenges, agroecological practices have gained traction in Burundi. These practices include techniques like agroforestry, intercropping, crop rotation, and organic farming, all aimed at improving soil fertility, conserving natural resources, and bolstering resilience to climate change. The government has shown commitment to promoting agroecology through policies like the National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP) and the National Agroecology Strategy, which prioritize sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation. Furthermore, initiatives have been launched to support smallholder farmers with training, inputs, and market access for agroecological products.

Similarly, in the DRC, despite its abundant agricultural potential, the sector has been hindered by decades of conflict, political instability, and underinvestment. Challenges such as soil degradation, deforestation, and poor infrastructure further compound agricultural woes. However, agroecology offers promise in addressing these challenges. Traditional farming systems in the DRC, like shifting cultivation and mixed cropping, inherently embody agroecological principles. Modern agroecological practices, including conservation agriculture and sustainable land management, are also gaining traction.

The DRC government has recognized the importance of agroecology in promoting sustainable agriculture and food security. Strategies like the National Strategy for Agricultural Development (SNDA)

and the National Program for Food Security (PNSA) prioritize agroecological approaches to enhance productivity, resilience, and environmental sustainability in the agricultural sector. Efforts are underway to strengthen institutional frameworks, build capacity, and mobilize resources for agroecological initiatives across the country.

Regionally and for the East African Community (EAC), discussion about the regional EAC agroecology policies and strategies in place is vital. The EAC has recognized the importance of agroecology in promoting sustainable agriculture and food security across member states. The EAC's agricultural policies and strategies emphasize agroecological approaches, aiming to enhance productivity, resilience, and environmental sustainability in the region. Initiatives such as the EAC Agricultural Policy and the EAC Climate Change Policy provide frameworks for promoting agroecology and addressing related challenges collectively.

Globally, initiatives such as the “Scaling Up Agroecology”, launched in Rome in 2018 by FAO and other UN partners, aim to support national agroecology processes. This initiative seeks to bolster policy and technical capacity, fostering synergies between countries. In alignment with the transformative spirit of the 2030 Agenda, the Scaling Up Agroecology Initiative offers an integrated approach for food producers, governments, and stakeholders to fortify agroecology.

3. Objectives and Purpose

The primary objective of the policy analysis is to develop a comprehensive database of existing agroecology and related policies instruments in Burundi and in the Democratic Republic of Congo. These encompass national policies and strategies, as well as national laws, bills, and regulations.

The specific objective of the policy analysis was twofold: firstly, to identify clear aims, objectives, and policy thrusts for agroecology; and secondly, to evaluate the current status of policies and gauge the level of support for agroecology. Additionally, the analysis aimed to identify gaps and weaknesses, propose mitigation strategies, and identify the designate responsible organizations for the development and implementation of the policies, laws, bills, and regulations pertaining to agroecology.

Through the compilation of this comprehensive policy analysis database, the East African Farmers Federation (EAFf) purposes to empower stakeholders especially Farmers Organisations with the necessary insights to advocate for policies that more effectively integrate agroecology principles and practices. Ultimately, this will foster the enhancement of agricultural policies and support farmer-led initiatives promoting innovative agroecological approaches across the Eastern Africa region.

4. Methodology

The methodology employed for this assignment embraced a comprehensive qualitative approach to collecting and analysing data. The initial phase involved an extensive desktop review and analysis of pertinent policy instruments concerning agroecology in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Further, email correspondences were initiated with regional partners associated with the East African Farmers Federation (EAFf) in Burundi and Congo. These exchanges garnered insights into agroecology and its associated policies in the focus countries.

The consultant obtained and reviewed various agroecology related policies, strategies, plans, documents, and reports pertinent to the assignment. The consultant also comprehensively analysed online peer-reviewed documents, reports, and global best agroecology practices content.

Following data collection, the gathered information and documents underwent rigorous analysis to extract key insights and trends related to agroecology policies in Burundi and the Democratic Republic

of Congo (DRC). The data analysis process involved several steps, including categorization, coding, and thematic analysis.

The findings from the data analysis were synthesized into a comprehensive database (Annex II). The database report provided a detailed overview of the agroecology and related policies in Burundi and the DRC, including aims and objectives, weaknesses, gaps, support for agroecology and potential areas for mitigation. Clear and actionable mitigations/recommendations are presented based on the analysis to guide policymakers, stakeholders, and practitioners in enhancing agroecology initiatives in the two countries.

5. Contextual Analysis

Both Burundi and DR Congo exhibit signs of increased adoption of improved agricultural practices and enhanced productivity. However, economic and nutritional challenges persist, underscoring the need for a continued focus on sustainable practices and effective resource management to ensure long-term food security and economic stability.

The sections below provide insights into the impacts of agricultural practices at both process and outcome levels¹, illustrating the challenges in adoption of agroecology practices and the changes in productivity over a three-year period. The highlights trends cover the following areas: Economic dimensions of agriculture; Production, trade, and prices of commodities; Food security and nutrition; and Sustainability and environmental aspects of agriculture.

a. Economic Dimensions of Agriculture²

Indicator	Country	2019	2020	2021
Value Added of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing (USD Million, 2015 Prices)	Burundi	1,126.0	1,157.5	1,191.1
	DR Congo	7,657.0	7,850.9	8,037.0
Share of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing Value Added In Total GDP (USD 2015 Prices) (Percent)	Burundi	34.0	34.8	35.2
	DR Congo	17.2	17.3	16.8
Agricultural Land by Use Cropland(Thousand ha)	Burundi	1 350.0	1,593.0	1,620.0
	DR Congo	10 229.0	15,695.0	15,698.0
Employment in Agriculture Forestry and Fishing (Thousand People)	Burundi	4,257	4,354	4,526
	DR Congo	17,073	17,211	17,692
Share of Agriculture Forestry and Fishing Employment in Total Employment (%)	Burundi	86.1	86.1	85.9
	DR Congo	56.3	55.9	55.3
Share of Women in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Employment (Percent)	Burundi	56.5	56.4	56.6
	DR Congo	57.3	57.0	57.2
Share of Central Government Expenditure on Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing in Total Outlays (Percent)	Burundi	3.1	-	-
	DR Congo	1.3	1.4	-

Insights:

- Both countries show growth in the value added of agriculture, indicating economic development in the sector.
- Expansion of cropland in both countries suggests increased land utilization for agriculture, reflecting higher adoption of farming practices.

¹ FAO. 2023. *World Food and Agriculture – Statistical Yearbook 2023*. Rome. [Cited May 2024].

² <https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/MK> [Cited May 2024].

- Growth in agricultural employment indicates a reliance on agriculture for livelihoods and potentially higher labour input into agricultural activities.
- Consistent women participation in agriculture suggests stable gender involvement, crucial for sustaining agricultural communities.
- Increase of the value added of agriculture, forestry, and fishing, indicate economic growth and substantial economic gains from agricultural activities in the sector.

b. Production, Trade, and Prices of Commodities

Indicator	Country	2020	2021
Production value of primary crops by group (Thousand Tonnes) (cereals, vegetables, fruit, roots and tubers, sugar crops, oil crops, other)	Burundi	1,964	7,174
	DR Congo	58,928	64,153
Production of Meat (Thousand Tonnes)	Burundi	36	43
	DR Congo	243	255
Agricultural Export Value all Food (USD Million)	Burundi	73	66
	DR Congo	112	86
Agricultural Import Value all foods(USD Million)	Burundi	125	135
	DR Congo	707	935
Inflation In Food Consumer Prices (Percent)	Burundi	10.4	24.1
	DR Congo	1.5	1.5

Insights

- Both countries witnessed increase in production value of primary crops reflecting significant improvements in productivity possibly due to better farming techniques and practices and efficiency in crop production.
- Both countries experienced growth in meat production, suggesting better livestock management, investment and production practices.
- On trade, Burundi experiences trade imports and exports imbalances. The rising imports reflect a growing reliance on foreign food supplies, which may indicate gaps in domestic production or increased demand that local production cannot meet. DR Congo also indicates a growing reliance on imported food.
- In Burundi, food consumer prices saw a sharp increase in inflation from 10.4% in 2020 to 24.1% in 2021. This high inflation rate suggests significant volatility in food prices, potentially due to supply chain disruptions, climatic events, pandemic or other economic factors. In Congo, the stability in food prices suggests better control over food supply and market conditions, contributing to food affordability.

c. Food Security and Nutrition

Indicator	Country	2019	2020	2021
Dietary Energy Supply (kcal per capita per day)	Burundi	1,780	1,770	1,775
	DR Congo	2,159	2,092	2,096
Prevalence of Stunting in Children under 5 (%)	Burundi	56.2	56.3	56.4
	DR Congo	41.4	41.1	40.7
Prevalence of Obesity in Adult Population (%)	Burundi ²⁰¹⁴⁻¹⁶	4.9	5.1	5.4
	DR Congo ²⁰¹⁴⁻¹⁶	6.1	6.4	6.7

Insights

- In Burundi, the small fluctuations in dietary energy supply suggest marginal improvements in food availability and accessibility. The overall decline for Congo points to challenges in maintaining sufficient food supply for the population.
- While in Burundi, there is an increase in prevalence of stunting in children under 5 yrs, indicating persistent issues with chronic malnutrition despite some improvements in agricultural productivity, in Congo it shows a slow but steady progress in tackling child malnutrition.
- The gradual increase in prevalence of obesity in adult population in Burundi and Congo, reflects changing dietary patterns and possibly a growing trend towards higher calorie consumption, similarly it points to changing trends in dietary habits and lifestyle.

d. Sustainability and Environmental Aspects of Agriculture

Indicator	Country	2019	2020	2021
Area Equipped for Irrigation (Thousand ha)	Burundi	23	23	23
	DR Congo	11	11	11
3Primary Crops Harvested Area by Commodity Group (Thousand Ha)	Burundi	-	2,163	1,882
	DR Congo	-	13,061	14,149
Land Area By Type (Thousand Ha) Agricultural land	Burundi ^{2000,10, 21}	1,867.0	1,833.0	2,103.0
	DR Congo ^{2000. 10, 21}	25,600	28,429	33,898
Area Under Organic Agriculture (Thousand Ha)	Burundi	0.1	0.3	0.5
	DR Congo	88.7	118.3	89.5
Pesticide Use (Tonnes)	Burundi	50	50	50
	DR Congo	1,070	1,130	1,160
Inorganic Fertilizer Use per Cropland area by Nutrient (Kg per HA)	Burundi	-	2.7	15.0
	DR Congo	-	0.1	1.8

Insights

- Limited increase in irrigation area indicates potential constraints in irrigation infrastructure or water resources. This stability suggests limited investment in irrigation infrastructure during this period indicating a lack of expansion in irrigation facilities.
- Adoption of organic agriculture practices is growing in Burundi. This growth suggests a gradual shift towards organic farming practices whereas DR Congo shows variability, suggesting possible market or policy influences.
- Increased use of fertilizers indicates efforts to boost productivity, although stable pesticide use suggests balanced pest management approaches, however it reflects an increasing trend in the use of agrochemicals

5.1. Non-State Actors in Burundi and Congo

The major key institutions operating in Burundi and Congo on Agroecology and related policies, projects and programmes, include the following. These institutions are key in influencing policy development and implementation at both regional and national levels.

- FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) dedicates itself to enhancing agricultural output, fortifying food security, and advancing sustainable rural development through capacity-building, technical expertise, and policy advocacy.
- Humanitarian organizations, religious institutions, and other NGOs collaborate closely with local communities and stakeholders to implement tailored poverty reduction and food security programs.

- IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) endeavours to combat poverty by bolstering agricultural productivity, prioritizing food safety, and fostering economic growth in rural areas.
- OCHA (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) orchestrates humanitarian responses and facilitates emergency relief efforts, addressing food security challenges amid natural disasters or conflicts.
- The World Bank extends financial and technical support to diverse poverty alleviation and food security initiatives, emphasizing sustainable development strategies for long-term impact.
- UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) is dedicated to improving nutrition and food security outcomes for children and families, with a focus on maternal and child health, nutrition education, and access to clean water and sanitation.
- WFP (World Food Programme) assumes a pivotal role in furnishing food aid and bolstering food security initiatives, particularly in times of crisis or emergency.
- Numerous other local actors and implementers contributing to the multifaceted efforts aimed at tackling poverty and enhancing food security on the ground.

6. Findings

The main findings of the analysis of agroecology and related policies revealed the absence of explicit policies concerning agroecology in Burundi and Congo. However, numerous extant policies indirectly address facets pertinent to agroecology, thereby aligning with global initiatives aimed at achieving zero hunger, poverty eradication, climate change mitigation, biodiversity preservation, economic empowerment, and gender inclusivity.

Supporting public policies promoting agroecology, establishing networks for sharing agroecological knowledge and practices, facilitating technology exchange, strengthening local agroecology institutions, and improving market access are identified as critical elements for bolstering agroecology. These factors significantly influence the effectiveness and implementation of agroecology policies and strategies in both Burundi and the DRC.

7. Analysis of agroecology and related policies in Burundi

In Burundi, agricultural production policies are informed by a range of significant strategic frameworks and documents, which collectively contribute to a holistic approach to development and poverty alleviation. Principal among these is Burundi's Vision 2025, a long-term development blueprint delineating fundamental objectives for the nation's advancement. With a robust emphasis on sustainable development and economic expansion, this visionary document serves as a guiding beacon across various sectors, prominently including agriculture.

Furthermore, policies, national plans, strategies, laws, bills, and regulations pertaining to agroecology play a pivotal role in shaping agricultural development in Burundi. By specifically targeting poverty alleviation and promoting inclusive growth, these measures highlight the fundamental importance of agriculture as a cornerstone of the nation's economy. They underscore agriculture's central role in poverty alleviation efforts and emphasize the need for targeted interventions to enhance productivity, sustainability, and resilience within the agricultural sector.

In tandem with these overarching frameworks, Burundi has crafted tailored strategies and plans to tackle the specific challenges and opportunities inherent within the agricultural sector. A prime example is the National Agriculture Strategy (2018-2027) crafted to cater to the distinctive exigencies of the agricultural

domain. This strategy functions as a comprehensive roadmap for enhancing productivity, championing sustainable practices, and enriching the livelihoods of rural communities.

Operationalizing the National Agriculture Strategy is facilitated through the National Agricultural Investment Plan spanning 2021–2027. This meticulously outlined plan delineates investment priorities and strategies aimed at bolstering agricultural development and effecting rural transformation within Burundi. Aligned with broader national development agendas, including poverty reduction and food security imperatives, the plan articulates a strategic approach to realizing the goals set forth by the National Agriculture Strategy.

Beyond its borders, Burundi demonstrates a steadfast commitment to advancing agricultural development through active participation in initiatives such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). With objectives centred on amplifying agricultural productivity, enhancing food security, and fostering rural development across the African continent, CAADP represents a significant avenue for regional collaboration and progress. By harmonizing with regional initiatives such as the Regional Food Security Programme for the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Regional Food Security Programme of the East Africa Community (EAC), Burundi contributes meaningfully to the overarching developmental aspirations of the region.

Box1: Review on Agroecology in Burundi

- Burundi is a landlocked country of which only 36% percent is arable (Baramburiye, 2012), with about 65% of the population living below the poverty line and suffering from alarming food insecurity (Rivas, et al, 2021).
- It is vital to provide detailed information about the potential impacts of climate change in order to enhance adaptation options and preparedness in Burundi for which little information about climate projections and hydro-climatic impacts is available.
- Burundi's economy relies heavily on the agricultural sector, which despite the scarce arable land, employs 80% of the population. 90% of the population depends directly or indirectly on this sector, which is mainly rain-fed (Baramburiye et al., 2013).
- There is need for strengthening farmers' capacities and improving the policy framework for adaptation to climate change in order to improve farmers' livelihoods. Implications for policymakers will include making flexible credit facilities, and investing in training extension agents on both climate change outreach and coping strategies (Batungwanayo, et al, 2023).
- Advocating for joint decision-making, access to information, and collective action in groups would reduce gender gaps in production and gender differences in access to and use of climate-smart technologies (Nchanji, et al, 2023)
- There is a need for major adjustments in agricultural, environmental, and macroeconomic policies to create conditions for sustainable agricultural development (Aboyitungiye, 2021).
- Few organisations are well-placed to monitor government policies and hold the government accountable for its commitments. Producer organisations and farmers' associations – such as the recently created Chamber of Agricultural Business Development and the *Confédération des Producteurs Agricoles pour le Développement* (CAPAD) – have little capacity and are generally not recognised by the government as interlocutors in policy development, while there are few platforms that provide for consultation between them and the public authorities. Traditionally, agriculture policy-making has been undertaken in a non-transparent, centralised way, doing little to consult the intended beneficiaries of policies (smallholder farmers).

7.1. Agroecology State Actors in Burundi

Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock

The Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock is the primary state actor in overseeing policy development for agricultural, environmental, and livestock activities in Burundi. It comprises eight directorates, each with specific functions and responsibilities: The directorate of environmental, agricultural and livestock planning; Mobilisation of self-development and agricultural and environmental extension; Agriculture; Livestock; Environment, water resources and sanitation; Resources; Spatial planning, irrigation and protection of land heritage and General inspectorate.

Additionally, the ministry encompasses personalized administrations and parastatal companies, established by decree, to manage various agricultural functions. These include:

- *Burundi Tea Office (OTB)*: Promotes and regulates the tea industry in Burundi, ensuring quality control and supporting tea production.
- *MOSO Sugar Company (SOSUMO)*: Produces and markets sugar, playing a crucial role in Burundi's sugar industry.
- *Office for the Development of Coffee in Burundi (ODECA)*: Supports and regulates the coffee industry, enhancing production and quality.
- *Cotton Management Company (COGERCO)*: Manages the cotton industry, overseeing production, processing, and marketing.
- *Societe Regionale de Developpement de l'IMBO (SRDI)*: Focuses on regional development in the Imbo plain, with an emphasis on agriculture, infrastructure, and social services.
- *Office of Palm Oil (OHP)*: Develops and promotes the palm oil industry, supporting its production and processing.
- *Institute of Agronomic Sciences of Burundi (ISABU)*: Conducts agricultural research and provides training, aiding the development of the agricultural sector.
- *National Agency for the Management of Food Safety Stocks (ANAGESSA)*: Manages food security stocks, ensuring the availability of essential food items.
- *Burundian Office for the Protection of the Environment (OBPE)*: Protects and manages the environment, promoting sustainable development.
- *Geographical Institute of Burundi (IGEBU)*: Produces and manages geographic information, supporting land use planning and development.

7.2. Investment in Agriculture in Burundi

Considering budgeted rather than actual expenditures, Burundi allocated more than the 10 percent of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) target from 2012 to 2018. However, the challenge lay in budget implementation.

Development partners primarily fund public goods such as infrastructure, storage, marketing, training, and extension. Private goods such as input subsidies or cash transfers are mainly financed by National sources. Unfortunately, more than half of donor funds remain unused. For example, in 2020, donor funding constituted 55 percent of the food and agricultural sector budget, but less than 40% was utilized.

Looking ahead, to achieve its ambitious goal of agricultural transformation by 2027, Burundi needs to scale up domestic financing for agriculture. This will ensure financial sustainability and improve spending efficiency by increasing capital expenditure and the provision of public goods, such as infrastructure and research and development services. Some examples of the agroecology related previous spending include the following:

- Share of agricultural R&D expenditure on agricultural GDP (Average 2004–2018) - 0.3 %
- Average Forestry Land and Environment, expenditure share of agricultural public expenditure (%) 2005-2017 - 26%
- Average efficiency scores for agricultural performance (GDP Per Capita) - 0.436%

Some of the key indicators tracked over time, along with the responsible organizations³, are summarized in the table below:

Variables and Indicators Monitored	Source Organisation
Agricultural GDP	World Bank
Agricultural GDP per rural capita	World Bank
Employment in agriculture (percentage of total employment)	ILO
Arable land (ha)	FAO

³ Pernechele, V. et al: Public expenditure on food and agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa: trends, challenges and priorities

Variables and Indicators Monitored	Source Organisation
Arable land per rural capita (ha per rural capita)	FAO, World Bank
Government Public agriculture expenditure	National sources
Fertilizer consumption (kg/ha) per arable land	FAO
Government agriculture expenditure on producer transfers – fertilizer, credit and seed	FAO
Government agriculture expenditure on consumer transfers – cash transfers, public works programmes and food aid	FAO
Government agriculture expenditure on knowledge dissemination – Technical assistance, training and research	FAO
Government agriculture expenditure on agricultural infrastructure – irrigation and feeder roads	FAO
Government agriculture expenditure on administrative costs.	FAO
Government agriculture expenditure on inspection, marketing and storage	FAO
Government agriculture expenditure on marketing and storage	FAO
Other government agriculture expenditure - land management and forestry expenditures.	FAO

Insights

- The source organisations offer a set of recommendations to strengthen policy monitoring systems and data generation for effective public investments in food and agriculture.
- Improving the quality and frequency of data collection on agricultural expenditures to enable more accurate monitoring and evaluation of policies and investments.
- Ensuring that budget allocations and actual expenditures are transparently reported and accessible to stakeholders, including policymakers, donors, and the public.
- Building the capacity of government institutions to effectively manage and utilize data for decision-making and policy formulation.
- Enhancing coordination among donor agencies to align their investments with national agricultural priorities and avoid duplication of efforts.
- Prioritizing investments in public goods such as infrastructure, research and development, and extension services that have broad benefits for the agricultural sector.
- Addressing bottlenecks in budget execution to ensure that allocated funds are fully utilized and reach their intended targets.

7.3. Agroecology Practices and Challenges in Burundi

Agroecological practices

The following are the main advantages of promoting agroecological practices over conventional farming methods in Burundi:

- i) Adaptation to climate change.
- ii) Improvement of food and nutritional security.
- iii) Empowerment of farmers' access to quality inputs.
- iv) Sustainable improvement of soil fertility.
- v) Biodiversity enhancement and ecosystem maintenance.
- vi) Natural resource management and environmental protection.

Challenges

- vii) Absence of policy on agroecology.

Agroecology Successes

- viii) Establishment of a National Platform on soil fertility in collaboration with FAO and the Ministry responsible for agriculture.
- ix) Increase in the number of farmers adopting agroecological practices.
- x) Autonomy in access to bio-inputs (organic fertilizers, bio-pesticides, etc.), reduction in production costs, and increase in agricultural production.

7.4. Agroecology Policies, Plans and Laws in Burundi

The following is a list of agroecology related policies, laws, and plans relevant in Burundi, that were analysed with detailed information provided in **Annex I**.

- i. Orientation Document Environmental, Agricultural and Livestock Policy (DOPEAE) 2020
- ii. National Forest Policy 2012-2025
- iii. National Development Plan for Burundi (PND) 2018-2027
- iv. National Agriculture Investment Plan 2021-2027 (NAIP/PNIA)
- v. National Determined Contributions-NDC 2021
- vi. National Biodiversity Strategy 2002 (SNPA-DB)
- vii. National Biodiversity Bill, 2013
- viii. Strategic Framework for Environmental and Social Management 2020
- ix. Water Code (Law No. 1/02 of March 26, 2012)
- x. Creation and Management of Protected Areas Law (Law No. 1/10 of May 30, 2011)
- xi. Participatory Management Framework of Protected Areas (Order No. 770/450 of May 6, 2022)
- xii. Environmental Code Implementing Measures (Decree 100/22)
- xiii. Land Code Revision (Law No. 1/13)
- xiv. Certified Land Rights Terms of Application (Decree No. 100/129 of June 23, 2016)
- xv. Pesticide Management Law (Law No. 01/08/2018)
- xvi. Environmental Code Establishment Law (Law No. 1/010)
- xvii. National Water Policy (PNEau) 2009
- xviii. National Sanitation Policy (PNA) 2013-2025
- xix. National Action Plan (NAP) 2022-2027
- xx. Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategic Framework (GPRSF) 2018
- xxi. National Agricultural Strategy 2018-2027
- xxii. Climate Change Policy 2013
- xxiii. National Adaptation Plan of Action to Climate Change (Dec 2023)
- xxiv. National Strategy for the Conservation of Protected Areas 2022-2032
- xxv. National Strategy and Action Plan to Combat Soil Degradation 2011-2016
- xxvi. National Plan to Fight Against Drought (PNS) 2020-2030
- xxvii. Burundi National Programme on Food Security 2009-2014
- xxviii. Burundi National Health Policy 2016-2025
- xxix. National Gender Policy of Burundi 2012-2025
- xxx. Strategic Nutrition Plan 2019-2023
- xxxi. Second Generation Multi-Sectoral Strategic Plan for Food Security and Nutrition (PSMSAN II, 2019-2023)

8. Analysis of agroecology and related policies in Congo

Legislative measures taken by the Republic of Congo, underscores commitments to fostering agricultural development, sustainable land management, efficient resource utilization, and transparent governance across various sectors critical to national development.

By Act No. 32-2020 of 27 June 2020, the Congolese parliament conferred upon the government the authorization to ratify the revised treaty establishing the Economic Community of Central African States. Consequently, Decree No. 2020-184 of 27 June 2020 was enacted to ratify the revised treaty of 18 December 2019, establishing the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). Notably, Chapter XI of this treaty underscores a commitment to cooperation among member states in the realms of agriculture, food security, nutritional security, as well as animal and fishery resources.

The objectives outlined within Chapter XI encompass a multifaceted approach to addressing agricultural and food-related challenges within the region as follows:

- a) Enhancing the standard of living of rural populations, particularly through income augmentation, increased agricultural and fisheries production, and job creation.
- b) Meeting the food requirements of populations and fortifying food security by enhancing both the quantity and quality of food production and formulating policies for trade and food reserves.
- c) Enhancing living and working conditions in rural areas.
- d) Adding value locally to agricultural production by processing plant and animal products.
- e) Developing the capacity of populations to facilitate their own development, including greater control over their technical and economic environment.
- f) Providing assistance to populations affected by major disasters through the utilization of warning tools and emergency food stocks.

Moreover, significant strides have been made in the agricultural and fisheries sectors in Congo. Act No. 5-2020, passed on 26 February 2020, saw the establishment of the National Agency for the Development of Agriculture and Livestock (ANDAE). This agency is tasked with executing policies and strategies formulated and adopted by the Government concerning agricultural and livestock development, as well as agricultural land use. The agency's purview encompasses a range of activities aimed at fostering high-value agricultural and pastoral sectors, including research, investment promotion, partnership establishment, and the development of sustainable production systems.

Similarly, Act No. 6-2020, enacted on 26 February 2020, led to the creation of the National Agency for the Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture (ANDPA). This agency is empowered to provide assistance through various government activities, including advisory support, technical assistance, resource evaluation, stakeholder mobilization, and investment promotion in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

Furthermore, the establishment of a National Land Registry by Act No. 52-2020 on 29 September 2020 represents a pivotal step in the management and documentation of land ownership in the Republic of Congo. This registry serves as an official repository for the identification and delineation of both built and non-built land ownership, as well as the publication of real property rights. The involvement of the public administration as the custodian of the land registry reinforces transparency and facilitates real estate transactions.

In the energy sector, Ministerial Order No. 673 of 22 January 2020 was issued to bolster the application of Article 21 of the Congolese Electricity Code, detailing the terms and conditions for issuing and renewing licenses for electricity import or export. Additionally, Decree No. 2020-132 of 18 May 2020

established consumption bands for water volumes applicable to various categories of users of the public water service, ensuring equitable distribution and efficient management of water resources.

Moreover, to support sustainable forestry practices, Ministerial Order No. 6515 of 18 June 2020 defined the standards for reduced impact logging in the Republic of Congo. This order provides a national reference framework for the development of management plans for production series and annual exploitation plans, fostering the sustainable management of forest resources in alignment with the forestry code.

BOX 2: Review of Agroecology in the Democratic Republic of Congo

- Farm-level investments improve farm incomes and enhance conservation effort for farmers perceiving climate change. Implications for Conservation: Climate change adaptation through planting of trees improves soil stability, restores ecosystems and creates a safe haven for biodiversity. Secure land tenure promotes better forestland management and reduces land degradation in vulnerable communities (Molua, 2023)
- Farmers employ water harvesting and low-cost irrigation methods to cope with changes in rainfall pattern especially in extended dry seasons. Facilitating farmers' access to climate information particularly with respect to the onset and cessation of rains will improve the planning of farm operations (Mbiafeu, 2024)
- The Republic of Congo's environmental, energy, and natural resources law and policy, including those related to agriculture, fisheries, land ownership, and energy, have been reviewed and found to be influenced by international environmental law (Nzaou-Kongo, 2021).
- Deforestation and forest degradation are driven by institutional and policy factors, with agro-industrial plantation, subsistence agriculture, and wood extraction posing significant threats (Tegegne, 2016).
- The use of non-timber forest products is influenced by a range of policies, including those related to food security, health, sustainable development, and environmental management (Walter, 2011).
- The land reform process in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which includes initiatives in the forestry and agriculture sectors, is characterized by debates over local and national issues (Huggins, 2020).

8.1. Agroecology State Actors in Congo

The Ministry of Agriculture is the main state actor and has the following agriculture related directorates: Agricultural Development and Entrepreneurship Department; Plant Production Department; Directorate for Agricultural Product Markets and Campaign Credits; Agricultural centres management; Plant Protection Directorate; Agro-Industry Directorate; Agricultural Land Development and Water Management Department; Archives management, new information and communication technologies; Maize Research Centre; Bengamisa Cocoa Factory; Cotton stabilization fund; Corps of National Inspectors; National Office for Development and Livestock; Kinshasa Veterinary Laboratory; National Rice Program; Emergency and Food Self-Sufficiency Program; National Agricultural Statistics Service; National Agricultural Mechanization Service / SENAMA; National Aquaculture Service/SENAQUA; National Fertilizer and Allied Inputs Service; National Agricultural Extension Service; National Fisheries Development Service / SENADEP; National Seed Service and Plant quarantine service /SQAV.

8.2. Investments in Agriculture in Congo

This table provides a comprehensive overview of investments in agriculture for the years 2023 and 2024, highlighting agriculture budget estimates and program descriptions across various categories⁴.

Category	2023	2024 Forecast	Description of programmes
Total General Agriculture Budget	15 149 815 842 510	36 469 497 416 234	Percent of agriculture budget of the overall general budget.
Agriculture	767 328 550 527	2 440 748 803 503	2023 (5.06%) 2024 (6.69%)
Selected agroecology related programme investments and percent in (brackets) of the investment of the agriculture budget.			
Equalization funds	104,995,482,490 (13.7%)	239,417,765,312 (9.8%)	Financing projects to ensure balanced provincial development in the agricultural sector.
Economic, Social, Cultural, and Scientific Interventions	15,250,000,000 (2.0%)	64,491,337,479 (2.6%)	Support for 1,340 specialized agricultural structures, study and mapping of irrigable and arable land.
Investments from External Resources	303,181,779,101 (39.5%)	1,467,509,162,882 (60.1%)	National Agricultural Development Program; Inclusive and Resilient Rural Development Support Program; National Agricultural Development Program; Support Program for the Development of Savannah and Degraded Forest Zones; Ngandajika Agro-Industrial Development Support Project; North Kivu Agricultural Sector Support Project, etc.
Investments from Own Resources	17 345 917 208 (2.3%)	26 263 481 729 (1.1%)	Acquisition of plant equipment for the development of the cassava program in the DRC, acquisition of agricultural equipment for the revitalization of agricultural centres, revitalization of agro-industrial parks, acquisition of equipment for combating the armyworm in the DRC, installation of agricultural mechanization brigades, construction of a seed agricultural laboratory (SENASEM).
Subsidies to Auxiliary Organizations	961 824 880 (0.13%)	2 923 649 759 (0.12%)	Support for specialized structures selected for 2024, including: SENASEM, SNV, Food and Nutritional Security Program, SQV, etc.

Insights

- The significant increases in budget allocations across all the categories indicate a strong commitment to adopting and scaling up agroecological practices.
- With the substantial increase in equalization funds, provides a more balanced development across provinces, ensuring that agroecological benefits reach all regions, enhancing regional equity.
- Increased funding for economic, social, cultural, and scientific interventions provides the necessary research, mapping, and technical support to implement agroecological practices effectively.
- Investments from external resources suggest a focus on comprehensive, large-scale programs that can transform agricultural practices on a national level, integrating resilience and sustainability.
- Investments from own resources highlight the importance of building domestic capacity through infrastructure, equipment, and mechanization, essential for sustaining agroecological practices, and ownership by the country.
- Increased subsidies to auxiliary organizations ensures that specialized support structures can provide ongoing assistance, research, and implementation support.

⁴ Ministry of Budget. Doc no 5 Explanatory Annex of the Analysis of Expenditure Forecasts for the Fiscal Year 2024

8.3. Agroecology Related Policies, Plans and Laws in Congo

The following list comprises agroecology related policies, laws, and plans for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), with detailed analysis information provided in Annex I:

1. National Land Policy, 2022
2. Sustainable Agriculture Policy of the Democratic Republic of Congo (Sept 2022)
3. Forest Policy of the Democratic Republic of Congo, 2002
4. National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy, 2018
5. National Nutritional Policy, 2013
6. National Land Use Planning Policy, 2021
7. Fundamental Agricultural Law (Law No. 11/022)
8. Determined National Contribution, 2022
9. The National Agricultural Investment and Food Security Plan (PNIASA) 2021-2025
10. National Adaptation Plan to Climate Change (NAP) of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) (2022 – 2026)
11. National Multi-Sectoral Strategic Nutrition Plan of the DRC 2023 – 2030

8.4. Agroecology Practices and Challenges in Congo

Agroecological practices

The predominant agroecological practices among farmers in DRC, include the following:

- a) Agroforestry: Integration of trees into agricultural landscapes, such as alley cropping, contour planting, and agro-silvopastoral systems, to enhance soil fertility, control erosion, and diversify farm products.
- b) Conservation Agriculture: Minimal soil disturbance, permanent soil cover, and crop rotation to improve soil health, water retention, and crop productivity.
- c) Agroecological Pest Management: Use of ecological principles to manage pests and diseases, such as biological control, crop diversification, and intercropping, to reduce the reliance on synthetic pesticides and promote natural pest regulation.
- d) Agroecological Crop Management: Integration of diverse crops and crop varieties, crop rotation, and polyculture to optimize resource use efficiency, enhance resilience to climate change, and improve food security and nutrition. These agroecological practices have contributed to improving agricultural productivity, sustainability, and resilience among farmers in North Kivu Province, DRC, by:
 - Enhancing soil fertility and health through organic matter accumulation, nutrient cycling, and biological activity.
 - Improving water infiltration, retention, and availability in soils, especially during dry periods, through soil cover and structure improvement.
 - Diversifying farm products and income sources, reducing production risks, and improving food security and nutrition through crop and livestock integration and value addition.
 - Minimizing environmental degradation, conserving natural resources, and mitigating climate change impacts through agroecosystem diversification, carbon sequestration, and ecosystem services enhancement.

Challenges

Farmers face several challenges in adopting and scaling up agroecological practices in, DRC, including the following.

- a) Limited access to agroecological knowledge, skills, and technologies, including extension services, training, and information.
- b) Inadequate access to inputs, resources, and credit, such as seeds, organic fertilizers, and financial services, to support agroecological transitions and investments.
- c) Insufficient policy support, institutional coordination, and market incentives to promote agroecological transitions, including land tenure, agricultural research, and value chain development.
- d) Climate change impacts, such as extreme weather events, seasonal variability, and pest and disease outbreaks, affecting agroecological performance, productivity, and resilience.
- e) Socio-economic constraints, such as poverty, gender inequalities, and youth unemployment, limiting agroecological adoption, participation, and empowerment among vulnerable groups.
- f) The absence of an agroecology development strategy.
- g) The absence of tax incentives to promote agroecology.
- h) Weak extension services.
- i) The absence of a participatory approach in the development of agricultural development policies and strategies.

Addressing these challenges requires multi-stakeholder collaboration, policy reform, and investment support to promote agroecological transitions, sustainable agriculture, and rural development in DRC.

Ineffective policies

On policies, some of the existing agroecology related policies remain largely ineffective for the following reasons:

- a) Weak application of laws related to agriculture and the environment.
- b) The absence of a strategy for the development of agroecology.
- c) Weak agricultural extension services.
- d) The non-involvement of farmer organizations in the formulation and implementation of agricultural development policies and strategies.
- e) The absence of incentives for the development of agroecology.
- f) The absence of a participatory approach in the development of agricultural development policies and strategies.
- g) The non-consideration of the knowledge of traditional farmers in agricultural research and extension.
- h) The absence of fiscal policy measures to promote agroecology.

9. Recommendations

This section presents recommendations aimed at enhancing agricultural development and promoting agroecology within the contexts of Burundi and Congo. While both countries possess a comprehensive framework of policies and strategies governing agriculture, trade, and food security, there is a notable absence of dedicated agroecology policies. Leveraging existing policies as a foundation for agroecological advancement is essential. Collaboration between governmental and non-state actors is paramount for effective implementation.

9.1. Policy Recommendations

Burundi and Congo lacks dedicated agroecology policy but has a comprehensive set of policies and strategies governing agricultural production, trade, and food security. Building on these existing policies is crucial for further improvements and successful implementation. The governments should be supported by both the non-state and state actors to actualize this. The following recommendations are proposed:

a. Establish an agroecology policy

- Formulate a national agroecology policy to promote sustainable farming practices that enhance biodiversity, improve soil health, and increase resilience to climate change.
- Encourage the adoption of agroecological practices through incentives, education, and support for research and innovation.

b. Facilitate adaptation to climate change

- Invest in infrastructure, agricultural productivity, education, and health.
- Promote income-earning options outside agriculture, sustainable land management, and conduct awareness campaigns on the potential impacts of climate change on agriculture.
- Ensure inclusive integration of climate change, food security, and trade linkages among stakeholders.
- Boost funding for national statistical programmes to enable effective monitoring of global climatic changes and their impacts. This includes supporting climate-adaptive initiatives, such as using advanced technologies for weather forecasting and conducting comprehensive studies on water and soil resources.

c. Increase farmland productivity

- Implement better technologies that generate higher yields to raise the productivity of existing farmland, considering the small average farm size.
- Address rapid population growth and ensure the adoption of climate-smart adaptation practices to prevent environmental degradation.
- Tackle issues of land fragmentation and ownership rights to all groups of people especially for women, displaced people, returnees, etc.

d. Enhance collaboration and participatory decision making.

- Foster collaboration participatory decision making among local farmers, input suppliers, traders, and consumer groups.
- Policymakers should develop and disseminate locally appropriate, cost-effective techniques and cultivars.
- Improve communication between farmers, scientists, and other stakeholders to address climate change challenges.

e. Develop farmers' skills, access to finance, and improved market opportunities

- Enhance the skills and capacities of farmers through targeted training and education programs.
- Promote rural financial institutions to facilitate access to loans for essential inputs such as fertilizers.
- Improve market access for farmers by developing infrastructure, enhancing market information systems, and supporting the creation of cooperatives and farmer groups.

9.2. Recommendations for Farmers' Associations

To address the weaknesses and gaps identified in the analysis of agroecological and related policies in Burundi and in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the following recommendations and actions by the farmers' associations are proposed.

a. Awareness of agroecology

Raising awareness of agroecology among policymakers and decision-makers is paramount, as it underscores its potential contributions to achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This necessitates advocacy for the establishment of a supportive environment, primarily through the implementation of robust agroecology policies. Policies geared towards promoting agricultural production systems should prioritize investment in and emphasis on continuous innovative research efforts aimed at fostering a level playing field for agroecology and other sustainable agricultural approaches. Doing this, policymakers can effectively harness the full potential of agroecology to address pressing global challenges related to food security, environmental sustainability, and rural livelihoods.

Role of Farmers Associations:

- Conduct advocacy campaigns to raise awareness among policymakers and decision-makers about the potential contributions of agroecology to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Lobby for the implementation of robust agroecology policies at regional and national levels.

b. Adoption of agroecological practices

Agroecology policies should actively promote and support the adoption of agroecological practices by prioritizing the strengthening of rural education, training, and extension systems. These policies should advocate for knowledge co-creation, co-learning, and sharing methodologies that effectively integrate scientific innovations and expertise with the invaluable experiences of food producers. In fostering collaborative learning environments and facilitating the exchange of knowledge and best practices, such policies can empower farmers and rural communities to successfully implement agroecological approaches. This holistic approach not only enhances agricultural productivity and resilience but also contributes to the sustainable development of rural areas and the broader agricultural sector.

Role of Farmers Associations:

- Advocate for policies that support the adoption of agroecological practices, including strengthening rural education, training, and extension systems.
- Facilitate knowledge co-creation and sharing methodologies to empower farmers to implement agroecological approaches effectively.

c. Local and regional value chains

Agroecology policies should prioritize local and regional value chains over the prevailing emphasis on global value chains. It is essential to underscore the importance of diversified production for farmers and establish robust connections between producers and consumers, while simultaneously strengthening the links between rural and urban areas. These policies should ensure that agroecological producers are granted enhanced access to market opportunities, thereby facilitating the development of vibrant local and regional economies. Through promotion of localized food systems and reducing dependency on distant markets,

such policies can contribute to greater food security, resilience, and sustainability at both local and regional levels.

Supporting local market access for food systems actors mitigates negative environmental impacts and fosters direct relationships between producers and consumers. This approach reduces reliance on long-distance transportation, cutting carbon emissions and promoting local economic development. Additionally, it strengthens community resilience by diversifying food sources and enhancing food security.

Role of Farmers Associations:

- Advocate for policies that prioritize local and regional value chains over global ones, ensuring enhanced access to market opportunities for agroecological producers.
- Promote the development of vibrant local and regional economies through localized food systems.

d. Policy integration, partnership and governance

To effectively bolster agroecology, it is imperative to ensure that policies provide for seamless integration, partnership and governance of existing policies related to agroecology. This entails better coordination across various scales (local, national, and regional), sectors, and stakeholders to achieve coherence in development and implementation. Presently, the policy landscape in Congo and Burundi exhibits a deficiency in dedicated agroecology policies, with the prevailing tendency towards sector-specific policies that only sporadically mention agroecology. This urgently require to put in place a coordination framework for concerted action.

Policy makers must prioritize initiatives to revitalize communication channels among farmers, scientists, and other stakeholders to collectively address the challenges posed by climate change. Strengthening collaboration among stakeholders, including local farmers, input suppliers, traders, and consumer groups, is essential for the effective development and dissemination of locally appropriate, cost-effective agricultural techniques and cultivars.

Policy makers should foster multi-sectoral collaboration and dialogue to develop holistic approaches that address the interconnected challenges facing the agricultural sector, ensuring sustainability and resilience in the face of climate change and trade dynamics. This includes integrating climate change, food security, and trade linkages among stakeholders in an inclusive manner to promote comprehensive and coordinated actions.

Role of Farmers Associations:

- Advocate for better policy integration, partnership, and governance to ensure coherence in the development and implementation of agroecology policies.
- Facilitate multi-sectoral collaboration and dialogue among stakeholders to address challenges facing the agricultural sector.

e. Climate change adaptations and mitigations

Agroecology policies should take a leading role in promoting climate change adaptations and mitigations. This can be achieved by fostering diversification to enhance resource-use efficiency and bolster resilience to the impacts of climate change. The encouragement of agroecological practices that promote biodiversity, soil health, and water conservation, the policies could help mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and reduce vulnerability to extreme weather events. Additionally, investing in agroecological research and extension services can provide farmers with the knowledge and tools they need to adapt to changing climatic conditions while maintaining productivity and sustainability in agricultural systems.

Policy makers must prioritize investments in infrastructure, agricultural productivity, education, and health to facilitate agriculture's adaptation to climate change. This entails promoting sustainable land management practices and conducting sensitization campaigns on climate change's potential impact on agriculture, and therefore enhance agricultural resilience and mitigate its adverse effects on food security and livelihoods.

Role of Farmers Associations:

- Advocate for policies that promote climate change adaptations and mitigations through agroecology, such as fostering diversification and soil health.
- Promote investments in agroecological research and extension services to help farmers adapt to changing climatic conditions.

f. Stakeholder engagement and knowledge exchange

Agroecology policies should prioritize the strengthening of agroecology institutions for stakeholder engagement. This involves empowering people, especially those at risk and vulnerable, by addressing inequalities and vulnerabilities. Key actions include increasing access to and equity in control over land and natural resources, enhancing access to education, technologies, and financial resources for women, youth, and elders. Promotion of inclusive participation and decision-making processes, will enable the policies ensure that the benefits of agroecology are accessible to all members of society, contributing to social justice and sustainable development.

Promote knowledge exchange mechanisms, including inter-generational and peer-to-peer networks, to facilitate the sharing of experiential and indigenous knowledge alongside scientific knowledge. This inclusive approach fosters collaborative learning and innovation within agricultural communities, contributing to more resilient and sustainable food systems.

Strengthen institutions to serve as hubs for agricultural innovation, fostering collaboration among researchers, farmers, policymakers, and other stakeholders. This collaborative approach accelerates the development and adoption of innovative agricultural practices, technologies, and policies, driving sustainable agricultural development and resilience.

Role of Farmers Associations:

- Strengthen institutions for stakeholder engagement and promote inclusive participation in decision-making processes related to agroecology.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange mechanisms, including peer-to-peer networks, to share experiential and scientific knowledge among agricultural communities.

g. Standardization of agroecological methodologies and systems

Standardization of methodologies is essential for the effective identification and evaluation of agroecological systems. By developing standardized methodologies, we can ensure consistency and comparability across different contexts, facilitating better understanding and analysis of agroecological practices. This standardization process involves establishing clear criteria, indicators, and protocols for assessing agroecosystems, taking into account factors such as biodiversity, ecosystem services, and socio-economic dynamics. Adopting standardized methodologies will enable policymakers, researchers, and practitioners to make informed decisions, promote best practices, and enhance the scalability and replicability of agroecological approaches.

Role of Farmers Associations:

- Advocate for the development of standardized methodologies for assessing agroecological systems to ensure consistency and comparability.

- Promote the adoption of standardized methodologies among policymakers, researchers, and practitioners.

h. Training, capacity-building and funding

To facilitate the transition towards agroecological practices, it's essential to provide training and capacity-building programs for farmers, addressing barriers such as access to land and resources. Policy makers should prioritize initiatives aimed at developing farmers' skills and capacities through comprehensive training programs and extension services. Additionally, promoting rural financial institutions and facilitating access to loans for inputs such as fertilizer can enhance farmers' productivity and livelihoods, enabling them to adopt sustainable agricultural practices more effectively.

Policy makers should allocate sufficient resources to strengthen the capacity of national statistical agencies to collect, analyse, and disseminate reliable data on agricultural production, trade, and food security. Adequate funding for national statistical programmes is essential to monitor global changes effectively and inform evidence-based policy decisions in agriculture.

Role of Farmers Associations:

- Prioritize initiatives aimed at providing training and capacity-building programs for farmers to adopt agroecological practices effectively.
- Advocate for increased funding for agricultural research and development to support innovation and sustainability in the agricultural sector.

i. Empirical Research

Conducting more empirical research on the socioeconomic dimensions of agroecology is essential to better understand its impacts and inform policy decisions. Additionally, there is a need to analyse relevant international, sub/regional laws, strategies, and frameworks to determine the extent to which they support or inhibit agroecology in the region and their interconnectedness. This empirical research to provide valuable insights into the socio-economic dynamics of agroecology and its alignment with broader regional and international agendas, facilitating evidence-based policy formulation and implementation.

Reform the regulatory agricultural research environment to streamline processes, reduce bureaucratic hurdles, and foster innovation. This entails creating supportive policies and frameworks that promote research collaboration, knowledge sharing, and technology transfer while ensuring compliance with safety and environmental standards and agroecology standards.

Increase public investments in agricultural research and development (R&D) to enhance innovation, productivity, and sustainability in the agricultural sector. This involves allocating more resources to research institutions, universities, and extension services to support the development of new technologies, practices, and solutions tailored to the needs of farmers and food systems.

Investing in research initiatives that specifically address the needs and challenges faced by women in agriculture, such as access to land, resources, and technologies is imperative. Moreover, research efforts should prioritize the development and promotion of sustainable agricultural practices that not only increase productivity but also minimize environmental impacts and enhance resilience to climate change.

Role of Farmers Associations:

- Support empirical research on the socioeconomic dimensions of agroecology to inform evidence-based policy formulation and implementation.

- Advocate for reforms in the regulatory agricultural research environment to streamline processes and foster innovation.

j. Action Research

The implementation of these findings and recommendations falls under Component One of the project '**Farmers Organisations Leading Research & Innovation (FO-ledR&I)**' on agroecology for sustainable food systems. This component focuses on lobbying and advocacy at both regional and national levels to enhance the enabling environment for farmer-led agroecological research. It aims to create a multi-stakeholder ecosystem to support farmer-led innovations and to strengthen the lobbying and advocacy skills of Farmers Organisations (FOs).

Specifically, Component One aims to demonstrate that FOs are crucial actors capable of driving action research on agroecology innovation and scaling up, and in enabling FOs to influence national agricultural policies to support agroecological approaches. Through action research, FOs will be instrumental in promoting and implementing best practices in agroecology, contributing significantly to sustainable food systems in the East Africa region.

Role of Farmers Organisations (FOs):

- FOs to lead action research initiatives, developing and testing agroecological practices that can be scaled up to improve sustainability in food systems.
- FOs to engage in lobbying efforts to shape agricultural policies that favour agroecological methods, ensuring that the interests and insights of farmers are reflected in national policies.
- FOs to help create a supportive multi-stakeholder ecosystem by connecting farmers with researchers, policymakers, and other relevant stakeholders.
- FOs to strengthen their own lobbying and advocacy skills to more effectively champion agroecological practices and innovations.

k. Agroecology supportive policies

Implementing supportive policies is crucial to bridge the gap between agroecological principles and real-world practices. These policies should address trade-offs and promote sustainable agricultural systems. The policies to provide incentives, regulatory frameworks, and financial support, to encourage farmers to adopt agroecological practices. Further the policies should prioritize research and innovation in agroecology, ensuring that farmers have access to the latest technologies and knowledge. Additionally, capacity-building programs and extension services should help farmers transition to agroecological practices effectively.

Role of Farmers Associations:

- Advocate for supportive policies that incentivize farmers to adopt agroecological practices and prioritize research and innovation in agroecology.
- Support capacity-building programs and extension services to help farmers transition to agroecological practices effectively.

l. Participatory assessment frameworks

Encouraging participatory assessment frameworks is essential to involve stakeholders in decision-making processes related to agroecology. The fostering of dialogue and understanding of trade-offs within agroecological systems, will ensure that the perspectives and needs of all stakeholders are taken into account. Participatory approaches empower local communities, farmers, and other relevant actors to contribute their knowledge and experiences to the development of agroecological policies and practices. This inclusive process promotes ownership and increases the likelihood of successful implementation.

Role of Farmers Associations:

- Encourage participatory assessment frameworks to involve stakeholders in decision-making processes related to agroecology.
- Facilitate dialogue and understanding of trade-offs within agroecological systems among stakeholders.

m. Land ownership

Develop land ownership policies that promote equality and address historical injustices. Ensure that land ownership laws are equitable and provide opportunities for marginalized communities, including women and indigenous groups, to access and secure land rights. Implement measures to address land inequality, such as land redistribution programs and reforms that prioritize land tenure security for vulnerable populations.

Role of Farmers Associations:

- Advocate for land ownership policies that promote equality and address historical injustices, ensuring access to land for women, youths, the elderly and marginalized communities.

n. Policy evaluations

Developing practical guidelines for the systemic evaluation of agroecological systems is crucial for ensuring comprehensive assessments at various scales. These guidelines should encompass ecological, social, and economic dimensions to provide a holistic understanding of the performance of agroecological practices. Considering ecological factors, such as biodiversity, soil health, and water management, the guidelines will assess the environmental sustainability of agroecological systems. Social dimensions, including community involvement, gender equity, and cultural relevance, should also be evaluated to ensure that agroecology promotes social justice and empowerment. Moreover, economic aspects, such as profitability, cost-effectiveness, and market access, need to be incorporated to assess the financial viability of agroecological approaches. By conducting systemic evaluations based on these guidelines, policymakers and practitioners can make informed decisions about the adoption and scaling-up of agroecological practices, ultimately contributing to more resilient and sustainable food systems.

Role of Farmers Associations:

- Support the development of practical guidelines for the systemic evaluation of agroecological systems to inform decision-making and scaling-up efforts.
- Advocate for holistic assessments that consider ecological, social, and economic dimensions of agroecological practices.

10. Conclusion

In conclusion, the analysis of agroecology policies in Burundi and Congo reveals both promising initiatives and areas for improvement. While commendable efforts have been made to prioritize sustainable agricultural practices and address food security challenges, significant hurdles remain. Fragmented farming communities, inadequate extension services, and limited access to credit and markets continue to impede the widespread adoption of agroecological principles. However, there is reason for optimism, as regional and international initiatives like the Scaling Up Agroecology Initiative offer integrated approaches to fortify agroecology and support national processes. Moving forward, policymakers must prioritize the development of robust agroecology policies, bolstering rural education and training, strengthening local value chains, and enhancing climate change adaptation measures. By fostering collaboration, investing in research and innovation, and promoting inclusive decision-making

processes, Burundi, Congo, and their regional partners can advance towards a more sustainable and resilient agricultural future.

References

1. Baramburiye, J Kyotalimye, M, Thomas, T, (2012), East African Agriculture and Climate Change: A Comprehensive Analysis – Burundi.
2. Batungwanayo, P., Habarugira, V., Vanclooster, M., Ndimubandi, J., F. Koropitan, A., & Nkurunziza, J.D. (2023). Confronting climate change and livelihood: smallholder farmers' perceptions and adaptation strategies in northeastern Burundi. *Regional Environmental Change*, 23, 1-20.
3. FAO. (2023). *World Food and Agriculture – Statistical Yearbook 2023*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc8166en>
4. Huggins, C., & Mastaki, C.P. (2020). The political economy of land law and policy reform in the Democratic Republic of Congo: an institutional bricolage approach. *Canadian Journal of Development Studies / Revue canadienne d'études du développement*, 41, 260 - 278.
5. Mbiafeu, M.F., Molua, E.L., Sotamenou, J., & Ndip, F.E. (2024). Climate, agroecology, and farm returns: differential impacts with implications for agricultural progress in the face of climate change. *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems*.
6. Molua, E.L., Sonwa, D.J., Bele, Y.M., Foahom, B., Mate Mweru, J.P., Wa Bassa, S.M., Gapia, M., Ngana, F., Joe, A.E., & Masumbuko, E.M. (2023). Climate-Smart Conservation Agriculture, Farm Values and Tenure Security: Implications for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in the Congo Basin. *Tropical Conservation Science*.
7. Nchanji, E.B., Nduwarugira, E., Ndabashinze, B., Bararyenya, A., Hakizimana, M.B., Nyamolo, V., & Lutomia, C.K. (2023). Gender norms and differences in access and use of climate-smart agricultural technology in Burundi. *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems*.
8. Pernechele, V., Fontes, F., Baborska, R., Nkuingoua, J., Pan, X. & Tuyishime, C. 2021. Public expenditure on food and agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa: trends, challenges and priorities. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb4492en>
9. Rivas López, M.D., Liersch, S., & Hattermann, F.F. (2021). Potential hydro-meteorological impacts over Burundi from climate change. *Journal of Hydrology: Regional Studies*.
10. Tegegne, Y.T., Lindner, M., Fobissie, K., & Kanninen, M. (2016). Evolution of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the Congo Basin forests: Exploring possible policy options to address forest loss. *Land Use Policy*, 51, 312-324.
11. Walter, S. (2011). An overview of policy and institutional frameworks impacting the use of non-timber forest products in Central Africa.

Annexes

Annex I: Agroecology and Related Policies Database for Congo and Burundi.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
CONGO			
Congo	1. Document De Politique Fonciere Nationale/ [National Land Policy, 2022	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	i. Overall objective: To formulate principles for the action of public authorities in matters of land and real estate governance. Key Specific Objectives: ii. Establish principles guaranteeing equitable management of competing land interests and conflicts to which they may give rise. iii. Reorganize the institutional framework for implementing policy and legislation land rights, by complying with the principles of decentralization, transparency, participation, performance and accountability, and by ensuring land services proximity and land security to all recognized real rights. iv. Establish land management mechanisms likely to improve and pacify the social and economic relations between local populations, especially in rural areas having experienced massive population displacements. v. Improve citizen participation of men and women in processes decision-making relating to land, and more especially those relating to land allocation rural areas and their distribution. vi. Mobilize land for economic growth and poverty reduction. vii. Require compliance with environmental standards on all land investors legally prescribed and ensure monitoring of the effective implementation of the commitments made this subject. Key Highlights viii. The policy recommends establishing a technical committee bringing together representatives of the technical services responsible for each sectoral development policy concerned, could be established in particular for the 1st phase which aims to establish a cross-mapping of land management issues. Beyond this monitoring committee, information or consultations could be made with groups of municipalities, in particular on the sectors where land developments could be the most significant. ix. The policy is particularly strong in aspects related to community and indigenous rights. It recognizes the collective, and individual rights and titles as well as Free, Prior and Informed Consent. It decentralizes land management instruments such as Local Land Charters, Community Land Cadastres, and Community Land Registers. Environmental aspects including forests are included in the main principles and in a systematic and transversal manner.
		Current Status	i. Since 2012, the Government of the DRC initiated a land reform process.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
			ii. The process was led by the National Land Reform Commission (CONAREF) created by Prime Minister Decree No. 13/016 of May 31, 2013 with funding from (CAFI) through FONAREDD, and technical assistance from UN-Habitat. iii. Interprovincial forum was held from November 5 to 8, 2018 in Bukavu bringing together nearly 300 delegates from the 26 provinces of the DRC. iv. The National Land Policy of the Democratic Republic of Congo was approved by the Council of Ministers on 15 April 2022.
		Support for Agroecology	i. The policy highlights the need to integrate the ecological transition and the preservation of natural capital into land management and territorial, including urban planning, rural development and development planning a decentralized scale. By 2030, in collaboration with the Congolese Agency for Ecological Transition and Sustainable Development, the strategy for the transition ecological in land investments is adopted and implemented. ii. The Policy further stipulates that the State undertakes to ensure, both in the design and in the implementation of the National Land Plan, a sustainable and efficient land management, based on an integrated approach, which combines land productivity and social and ecological factors. To this end, the plan will ensure respect of all procedural environmental protection mechanisms provided for by law in the development and implementation of land strategies, plans, programs and projects likely to generate environmental and social impacts. In this regard, the plan will ensure that the land programs and projects that it authorizes do not generate soil and water pollution, nor serious harm to biodiversity or the integrity of sensitive natural environments.
		Identified gaps/weaknesses	The following gaps and weaknesses were identified in relation to Agroecology: i) A large section of DRC land still remains undocumented with no formal titles thereby limiting security of tenure, especially for local communities and indigenous people who have no land title documents. ii) Insufficient provisions to reconcile customary land rights with the formal land ownership system which often lead to disputes between customary land rights claims and lead to dispossession of communities that might not have documentation to prove ownership in case of dispute. iii) Limited or lack of resources for implementation to realize aspirations of the policy which is exacerbated by a lack of human resources to effectively implement the policy, bureaucracy, and delays. iv) Prioritization of large-scale agricultural practices likely to overshadow the needs of small-scale farmers who are the engine for national food security. v) Policy focus on large-scale agricultural development may lead to deforestation and environmental degradation if biodiversity considerations are not properly implemented. vi) Lack of clear gender policy may lead to the national land policy discriminating, marginalizing, and disenfranchising women who despite playing a critical role in sustainable agriculture often does not have title and ownership of land. vii) Many people in DRC have been displaced from their land by long periods of conflict.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
		Mitigation	i) Addressing the gender gap in accessing land and other productive resources to mitigate poor performance of largely female-dominated smallholder agriculture. ii) Addressing the deep gap in the way policy makers, donors, and local actors understand the concept of land rights and security of tenure. iii) The policy needs to take into consideration the reality of the impact of conflict and strengthen its approach towards creating stronger frameworks for the security of tenure and reintegration of communities to access their customary or communal land. iv) There have been some recent initiatives to promote localised land rights and promote decentralised land governance systems in the DRC, based on issuing certificates of customary ownership. Several national and international organizations and UN agencies are involved in various individual and collective land formalization processes, with the support of some donors. However, these initiatives remain poorly coordinated and weakly supported by the state.
		Responsible	Ministry of Land Affairs No. 27, Crossing of Avenues de la Gombe and Batetela, Kinshasa/Gombe +243 815 99 95 70, +243 997 21 12 45, contact@cadastre.gouv.cd , https://cadastre.gouv.cd/contact/
Congo	2. Politique De L'agriculture Durable De La République Démocratique Du Congo/Sustainable Agriculture Policy of the Democratic Republic of Congo (Sept 2022)	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	Sustainable Agriculture Policy (PAD) aims to contribute to the growth of the national economy while ensuring the sovereignty and food security of the population. It also aims to increase the income of rural, urban, and peri-urban populations sustainably. Additionally, the PAD aims to maintain agroecological conditions for agricultural production, adapt agriculture to climate change, and preserve forests and peatland areas. Objectives i) Promote innovative and resilient agriculture to guarantee food and nutritional security and generate improved income. ii) Regulate the supply of agricultural products on the market to safeguard price levels in the interest of producers and consumers. iii) Promote the rational and sustainable exploitation of production spaces and resources to ensure stability in forest cover and natural capital. iv) Facilitate access to land and contribute to land security, along with organizing local communities and indigenous Pygmy peoples. v) Ensure the participation of vulnerable populations, including women, youth, and indigenous Pygmy people, in decision-making processes, PAD implementation, and conflict prevention. vi) Contribute to improving institutional governance and strengthening stakeholder capacities. Key Highlights i) Priority actions outlined in the PNAD include strengthening multi-stakeholder consultation platforms, capacity building for local institutions, engagement and organization of local communities, ensuring land security, supporting income-generating activities, promoting the use of incentive instruments, redeploing agriculture in savannah areas, improving access to financial services, and enhancing the use of quality inputs.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
			ii) PNAD aims to contribute to reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation while improving the quality of life. This includes the adoption of the agricultural policy by the Senate and Parliament, capacity enhancement at national and provincial levels, development of a technical baseline for sedentary agriculture, capitalization on knowledge acquired from sustainable agricultural models, mapping of industrial, commercial, and community farms, and creation of an interactive platform for visualizing agricultural land registry. iii) The PNAD is a comprehensive document with national scope, serving as a reference and guiding instrument for the agricultural sector from 2022 to 2030. The DRC is implementing a series of specific strategies to address structural problems in Congolese agriculture for the 2020-2030 period, such as low productivity, unsustainable techniques, inadequate infrastructure, energy deficits, limited access to financial and input services, and the impacts of climate change. iv) Farmer organizations are expected to actively participate in decision-making processes related to agriculture and the PNAD, ensuring that the perspectives and needs of farmers are considered. They should play a crucial role in conflict prevention within communities and contribute to the overall success of sustainable agriculture initiatives
		Current Status	i) It was adopted in September 2022
		Support for Agroecology	ii) The PNAD of the DRC contributes significantly to agroecology by prioritizing sustainable and resilient farming practices that harmonize with natural ecosystems. Through its objectives and action plans, the PNAD aims to promote innovative and environmentally friendly agricultural techniques that enhance soil health, conserve water resources, and protect biodiversity. iii) The PNAD emphasizes the rational and sustainable exploitation of production spaces and resources, ensuring the stability of forest cover and natural capital while maintaining agroecological conditions. By facilitating access to land and promoting land security, the policy encourages farmers to adopt agroecological principles, such as agroforestry and crop rotation, which contribute to soil fertility and resilience to climate change.
		Identified gaps/weaknesses	i) Policy emphasis on large-scale farming, mechanization, and commercial inputs like synthetic fertilizers and pesticides is seen as being expensive for small-scale farmers in addition to potentially leading to environmental pollution, soil degradation, and pollution of water. ii) Focus on large-scale farming may leave out benefits for small-scale farmers who are the majority in the agriculture sector leading to lack of access to credit and financing for equipment and improving land productivity. iii) Focus on commercialization may ignore or fail to incorporate agroecology practices that work with nature, such as crop rotation, cover cropping, and integrated pest management. The policy focus on commercial farming may fail to prioritize these methods despite being more affordable and sustainable for small-scale farmers. iv) The policy does not provide clear mechanisms to monitor and evaluate its implementation thereby making it difficult to assess its effectiveness and identify areas for improvement.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings	
			v) Despite the policy focusing on sustainable agriculture, it does not sufficiently address the security of land tenure and thus may be ineffective for small-scale farmers and indigenous communities. vi) The Agriculture Policy might create a presumption that there is no need for a specific agroecology policy in the DRC thus leading to missed opportunities to mainstream agroecology.	
		Mitigation	i) Need for the policy to prioritize agroecological practices like crop rotation, cover cropping, and integrated pest management to promote biodiversity and reduce reliance on expensive external inputs so that it is more suitable for small-scale farmers. ii) Align policy to promote access to finances and credit for agribusiness. iii) Promote agriculture extension services to build the capacity of farmers to embrace sustainable farming practices. iv) Create opportunities for small-scale farmers to network and access markets to transition from subsistence farming to access the agriculture supply value chain for income generation and poverty eradication. v) Align policy to the movement towards strengthening land ownership and security of tenure for small-scale farmers, local communities, and indigenous people. vi) Capacity building for state agencies to enforce sustainable agricultural practices. vii) Addressing institutional corruption and promoting accountability to ensure the realization of the policy objectives. viii) Creating incentives for organic farming and incorporating traditional and cultural knowledge in ensuring biodiversity and countering the potential negative impact of commercialization of farming practices. ix) Promoting gender equality and empowering women who are the majority of rural farmers to have equal access to land ownership, access to credit, and to access markets for their agricultural products. x) Establish effective mechanisms for assessing the implementation of the policy for the benefit of all stakeholders, particularly small-scale farmers, local communities, and indigenous populations.	
		Responsible	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. Adresse: 129, avenue Amilcar Cabral, Mpila, Brazzaville, Congo, Email : contact@minagri.gouv.cg	Ministère du Développement Rural - RDC Place Royale, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo +243 825 999 992, info@dev-rural.gouv.cd
Congo	3. Document De Politique Forestiere En Republique Democratique Du Congo/Forest Policy of the Democratic	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	Towards implementing changes to the ineffective colonial era decree of 1942, DRC passed the Forest Code of 2002 which incorporated sustainable forest management in line with global best practices. DRC further developed its Forest Policy which aims at ensuring sustainable management of the DRC's vast forest resources, balancing economic benefits with conservation and community needs. Objectives i) Strengthen the institutional framework and sector capacities by providing the sector with a full-fledged ministry and institutional capacity from central, provincial and local levels.	

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
	Republic of Congo, 2002		ii) Knowledge of forest resources including their geographical distribution (at the level national, provincial and local), their condition, and the pace of their exploitation, and taking into account indigenous knowledge. iii) Sustainably manage the forests of the DRC according to standards required including multi-resource inventories, forest zoning participatory, forest land allocation plan and forest management. iv) Sustainably conserve biological diversity and rehabilitation and security of protected areas existing and on the extension of these to 17% of the surface area of the territory national. The results of multi-resource inventories will help in the creation of new protected areas. v) Reduce poverty and ensure food security. Considering that rural populations, represented among others by local communities and/or indigenous peoples, are generally resource-dependent on forests for their survival. Better management of these will contribute significantly to the reduction of poverty, the improvement of food security and their sustainable management. vi) Harmonize forest policies and legislation with those of other sectors. This harmonization concerns the sectors which, directly or indirectly, intervene in the forest area. This concerns, in particular, the sectors of: agriculture, rural development, land affairs, public works and reconstruction, mines, energy, hydrocarbons, town planning and housing, national education, and regional and international cooperation. vii) Meet international conservation commitments and sustainable management of forests and biodiversity The DRC has signed and/or ratified several protocols, agreements, conventions and international treaties on forests and biodiversity. Through the present objective, the DRC undertakes to respect the commitments to which it has subscribed both at the sub-regional, regional and international level. Key Highlights i) The policy document is structured into two main parts: The first part deals with generalities in terms of the context of the sector forest. It addresses, within a national socio-economic and institutional framework, the salient points relating to the diagnosis of the forest sector and in particular: the state of forest resources, the institutional and legal frameworks and the management mode of the sector, the contribution of forests to the national economy; the challenges of the forestry sector, in terms of the assets and opportunities as well as the constraints linked to its development. ii) The second part forms the very body of forest policy and deals with respectively the vision and its objectives as well as the axes strategies that underlie them. Finally, it proposes a strategy and a mechanism for implementing this policy and briefly addresses the monitoring and evaluation framework of the policy.
		Current Status	i) Adopted in 2002 ii) The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has developed a Forest Policy that seeks to operationalize the Forest Code in a manner that is responsive to its natural resources.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
		Support for Agroecology	i) Adaptation of the forest sector climate change; specific vulnerability analyzes and actions concrete measures concerning forest development (forest management natural, forest plantations) to be included in the national program adaptation. ii) Mitigation as part of preparing the DRC for the future REDD+ regime
		Identified gaps/weaknesses	i) Prioritizing state control over forests, potentially side-lining communities that depend on forests for livelihoods. ii) Limited opportunities for community participation in decision-making concerning forests in their locality. iii) Susceptibility of forests to Illegal logging and unsustainable practices due to corruption and limited enforcement capacity. iv) Insufficient mechanisms for addressing conflicts between forestry, agriculture, and mining concessions that lead to deforestation and misappropriation of resources. v) Lack of clear land tenure systems disadvantage communities in access and sustainable agroforestry.
		Mitigation	Need for stronger frameworks to prevent deforestation, environmental degradation, and marginalization of forest-dependent communities
		Responsible	Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) https://medd.gouv.cd/ 15 Av: Papa ILEO, Gombe / Kinshasa, +243 816500333 / +243 891118392, info@medd.gouv.cd
Congo	4. Document de la Politique Nationale de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture (PNPA)/National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy, 2018	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	The national fisheries and aquaculture policy is based on a sustainable vision of the field and defines global and specific objectives as well as principles and strategic goals. The fishing and aquaculture policy targets a sector driven by dynamic public and private actors, capable of creating jobs and increasing production through sustainable exploitation of fishing and aquaculture resources with a view to reducing poverty, ensuring food security and population access to basic social services. Overall objective i) To bring the field of fishing and aquaculture into a dynamic of sustainable management with a view to improving productivity through entrepreneurship, taking into account the provincial, national, sub-regional environment, regional and international. Specific objectives ii) Promote fishing and aquaculture in all their forms. iii) Improve productivity in the field of fishing and aquaculture by strengthening the capacities of organizations of fishermen, aquaculturists and economic operators. iv) Promote specific management of each water body with public and private production support institutions. v) Improve the structuring and management of fishermen and aquaculture organizations. vi) Ensure better valorization of fishing and aquaculture products.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
			vii) Stimulate research through the ecosystem approach to fisheries, the selection of high-performance strains for aquaculture and the development of high-performance foods from local by-products. viii) Promote financial systems (microcredit) specific to the field of fishing and aquaculture. Key Highlights ix) The policy highlights some of the main concern that include declining fish stocks due to overfishing and unsustainable practices. It aims to bridge the gap in fish production through promoting aquaculture alongside sustainable wild fisheries management. The policy further seeks to create jobs, raise incomes, and improve food and nutritional security through a focus on fisheries and aquaculture. x) It recognizes the potential of aquaculture, particularly tilapia farming, to contribute significantly to increased fish production. It highlights the need for collaboration between the government, stakeholders, and the private sector for successful policy implementation. xi) The fishing and aquaculture policy targets a sector run by public actors and dynamic private sector, capable of creating jobs and increasing production through sustainable exploitation of fisheries and aquaculture resources with a view to reducing poverty, ensuring food security and people's access to services basic social. xii) Bringing the field of fishing and aquaculture into a management dynamic sustainable approach with a view to improving productivity through entrepreneurship, taking into account of the provincial, national, sub-regional, regional and international environment.
		Current Status	DRC National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy Document was established in 2017. The policy was adopted in 2018
		Support for Agroecology	While the DRC National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy is not directly agroecological, it contributes to agroecological principles in several ways: i) Supporting Integrated Aquaculture as it promotes small-scale aquaculture, which can be integrated with agricultural practices in an agroecological approach. This may include aquaponics which is raising fish in tanks and using their nutrient-rich water to fertilize crops grown hydroponically. ii) Combining fish farming with crop production, where pond water is used for irrigation and agricultural waste provides nutrients for the fish. iii) The policy's focus on sustainable fisheries management aligns with agroecological principles of protecting ecosystems. This involve: iv) Sustainable aquaculture practices minimize the use of antibiotics and other chemicals in fish farming, reducing water pollution. v) Protecting and restoring aquatic ecosystems for wild fish populations benefits overall biodiversity. vi) By encouraging small-scale fish production, the policy can contribute to local food security and shorter supply chains. This aligns with agroecological principles of promoting local food systems and reducing reliance on industrial agriculture.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
		Identified gaps/ weaknesses	i) The policy primarily focuses on increasing fish production, and integrating agroecological principles might require additional considerations. ii) The policy doesn't address issues like organic fish feed, which is a key aspect of agroecological aquaculture.
		Mitigation	i) Effective implementation and enforcement of regulations. ii) Allocation of sufficient resources for aquaculture development and support to small-scale fish farmers. iii) Continued research and development of sustainable aquaculture practices iv) Policy offers potential entry points for incorporating agroecological practices in the DRC's aquaculture sector. v) Opportunity for increasing fish production and promoting environmental sustainability and local food security.
		Responsible	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. Adresse: 129, avenue Amilcar Cabral, Mpila, Brazzaville, Congo mail : contact@minagri.gouv.cg
Congo	5. Politique Nationale De Nutrition/National Nutritional Policy 2013	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	The National Nutrition Policy aims to guarantee human capital productivity, through good nutrition of the population, for the development of the country. The general objective of the national nutrition policy is to improve the nutritional status of the population in the DRC through the synergy of direct nutrition and of all nutrition-sensitive sectors Key Interventions Some of the policy interventions proposed include: i) Rehabilitation of agricultural service roads, construction of markets and warehouses promote the storage and exchange of agricultural and food products and will help stabilize supplies. ii) There is also the promotion of poultry farming and fishing activities in the areas with a high prevalence of malnutrition such as Lomela and Katako-Kombe as well as that in the reception areas of displaced people in the east of the country and returnees Ecuador. For the moment, most interventions in the area of food security are limited to the increase in food availability through the development of agriculture and encouraging agricultural production through mechanisms such as the “Purchasing for Progress (P4P)” initiative and the creation of commercial opportunities safe for agricultural products. iii) The policy identifies actions to support food conservation to target post-harvest operations (drying, storage, processing, transport, etc.), to reduce the arduousness of the work (especially for women), improve the conservation of products, as well as for better value marketable while limiting post-harvest losses. To this end, priority will be given to appropriate technologies and equipment, accompanied by consistent training programs and adequate appropriation strategies by the beneficiaries.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
			iv) Support for improving product marketing infrastructure agricultural/food, rehabilitation of agricultural service roads, and construction of markets and warehouses to promote the storage and exchange of agricultural and food products and will help stabilize supplies. v) Support for agricultural research and dissemination of crop varieties and good cultivation techniques processing and preservation of foods for the promotion of nutrition will be promoted, particularly for the preservation of micronutrients (vitamin A, iodine, etc.) and reducing the content of certain foods (cassava, etc.) in toxic substances.
		Current Status	i) The adoption in 2000 of a National Nutrition Policy and the creation of the National Nutrition Program within the Ministry of Public Health. ii) The adoption of two Nutrition master plans (2001-2005) and (2006-2008) which have been implemented iii) The adoption of the Strategic Nutrition Plan (PNDS-Nutrition Component) for the period 2011-2015 with a view to achieving the MDGs, falling within the context of the National Health Development Plan (PNDS) and the 2011 National Five-Year Plan -2015, targeting growth and poverty reduction iv) The country's membership in the SUN movement in 2013 enabled the revision of the national nutrition policy to make it multi-sectoral. The national multi-sectoral strategic nutrition plan Signature of the interministerial decree establishing the National Multisectoral Nutrition Committee under the coordination of the Prime Minister.
		Support for Agroecology	i) Although the National Nutrition Policy is not an agroecology policy, it promotes practices that align with agroecological principles. ii) These include the policy's focus on improving national nutritional goals through promoting local agriculture and animal husbandry practices that are part of building a sustainable food system. iii) It further supports the cause for engaging small-scale farmers and adopting different production practices which indirectly contribute to agroecological practices. This is seen through the focus on nutrient-rich crops to prevent vitamin and mineral deficiencies and encouraging fish farming to improve protein intake.
		Identified gaps/weaknesses	i) The policy does not encourage agroecological methods like organic farming, crop rotation, or integrated pest management which could improve nutritional outcomes by promoting biodiversity. ii) Overemphasis on increased production with main focus on infrastructure development might not ensure dietary diversity or access to nutritious foods for all especially the poor. iii) Does not adequately address the root causes of malnutrition, such as poverty, lack of access to clean water and sanitation, or inadequate healthcare. iv) Not specific on regional interventions for small-scale farmers like promoting poultry farming or fishing activities in specific regions. v) Does not outline how the proposed collaboration or who the target stakeholders would be for its success.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
		Mitigation	i) The policy could encourage organic farming methods or local food markets – actions that would further strengthen the connection between the National Nutrition Policy and the principles of agroecology.
		Responsible	Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) https://medd.gouv.cd/ 15 Av : Papa ILEO, Gombe / Kinshasa. +243 816500333 / +243 891118392, info@medd.gouv.cd
Congo	6. Politique Nationale d'Aménagement du Territoire/National Land Use Planning Policy 2021	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	The DRC has been engaged in a land-use planning reform since 2018. In addition to the formulation of a land-use planning policy, it has also adopted methodological guides for the development of simple, local and provincial plans - 'territory Development The role of land use planning policy is to guide and coordinate policies of sectoral public bodies and public entities in a participatory vision to ensure optimal management, equitable and sustainable national space and natural resources, through improving spatial coherence in the design and implementation of these policies all levels of territorial governance. Through the Policy, the Government intends to carry out a set of measures over five years of implementation (2021 – 2025), to guarantee the equitable and sustainable management of national space and natural resources through the implementation of schemes, plans, programs, and measures at all levels of the territorial governance, through the following seven strategic aims. These include: i) Promotion of major structuring and integrating infrastructures of the territory; ii) Search for a rational and equitable redistribution on the national territory of basic social facilities and services; iii) Strengthening the urban framework and competitiveness and integration poles economic ; iv) Development and agro-rural planning and strengthening of city-country complementarities; v) Environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change; vi) Planning, optimization of allocations and arbitration of land uses; vii) Improvement of the legal and institutional frameworks for territorial planning in the country.
		Current Status	The policy identified areas of intervention broken down into programs and actions which are detailed in the logical framework and the plan of actions for 2021-2025. The policy was developed through a consultative and participatory process which included the following phases: i) First draft of Policy drafted on November 10, 2019. ii) Reviewed in November 2019 to incorporate considerations for PNSD and sectoral legislation on forestry, land, mines, hydrocarbons, agriculture, and the environment. iii) Reviewed for stakeholder's consultation forum in December 2019 and provincial actors' workshops organized in five pools and national validation in January 2020. iv) Subjected to stakeholders' validation in February and March 2020 with participation of representatives of the indigenous peoples, Provincial Assemblies and Provincial Governments.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
			v) Submitted for review sessions with representatives of technical and financial partners including CAFI, FONAREDD and WRI, public establishments and sectoral ministries. vi) The National Land Policy was approved by the Congolese government and adopted in 2021
		Support for Agroecology	The Policy does not refer to agroecology. However, it addresses thematic concerns relevant to agroecology which include establishing a framework for organized land management aimed at avoiding conflicts promoting sustainable development, addressing climate change, and promoting rural-urban collaboration for mutual beneficial agricultural productivity.
		Identified gaps/ weaknesses	Some of the key policy gaps include: i) Limited implementation capacity considering the size of the country and poor infrastructure. ii) Effective land use and planning require to establish sufficient data and effective data management platforms by relevant state agencies and ministries. iii) Potential integration challenge because of numerous national, provincial, and regional regulations on different sectors relevant to land use planning such as mining, forestry etc.
		Mitigation	i) Strengthening the implementation capacity of relevant government agencies and stakeholders through investing resources for training government officials, local administration, and other players in the land use and administration towards effective implementation of the policy. ii) Decentralizing interventions at district levels and engaging local authorities. iii) Ensuring the participatory engagement of local communities, small-scale farmers associations and indigenous people. iv) Investment in effective data collection and effective land registration and information management systems. v) Need for stronger frameworks for meaningful community participation and stakeholder engagement. vi) Fostering collaboration between the various ministries and departments with mandates related to land use and planning. vii) Creating awareness and promoting multi-stakeholder engagement and collaboration with the private sector and professionals engaged in land use planning.
		Responsible	Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire 6ème niveau de l'immeuble intelligent, Gombe, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo info@amenagement.gouv.cd
Congo	7. Loi Fondamentale Agricole (Loi No. 11/022)/Fundamental Agricultural Law (Law No. 11/022)	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	The Fundamental Agricultural Law is the main législation governing the agricultural sector and setting fundamental principles for agriculture in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It aims to promote sustainable development by integrating social and environmental aspects, focusing on decentralization, diversity, and agroecological considerations. Objectives: i) Promoting sustainable development focused on agricultural potential and opportunities ii) Stimulating agricultural production for food self-sufficiency iii) Boosting agricultural exports for investment

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
			iv) Promoting local agricultural processing v) Attracting new renewable energy technologies, and vi) Engaging different provinces, regional public entities, and farmers in agricultural development. Main Highlights: i) The Fundamental Agricultural Law introduced various innovative solutions to foster agricultural development aimed at engaging farmers, investors and relevant professionals in the agricultural sector in decision-making processes through the creation of advisory councils at national, provincial, and local levels. It further introduces international standards on conservation and use of plant genetic resources, environmental protection, and the monitoring of agricultural land use and production. It further establishes frameworks for monitoring agricultural land use and production and mechanisms for dispute resolution for agricultural and land-related conflicts. ii) Farmer organizations play a central role in decision-making processes as they are involved in advisory councils at national, provincial, and local levels. The law recognizes the importance of involving provinces, centralized territorial entities, and farmers in promoting and implementing agricultural development, indicating a collaborative approach with farmer organizations. iii) Given the huge dependence of the largely rural population on agriculture, this law attempts to support sustainable development; improve agricultural production and provide food self-sufficiency. The purpose of this Law is to promote and increase agricultural production to ensure food security and rural development. Its provisions apply to exploitation; agricultural training and research; financing of agricultural activities; sale of agricultural products; protection of environment; tax and customs regimes; etc. The Law sets a decentralised institutional framework to govern the agricultural policy and creates agricultural advisory boards at the national, provincial and local levels. iv) While these aspects of the law are relevant to climate change with regard to land management and land use change (LULUCF), of particular importance is the stated goal of attracting new technology for sustainable energy production, specifically bioenergy and biogas to help shift the energy mix further towards renewable energy.
		Current Status	Published in 2011
		Support for Agroecology	i. The Fundamental Agricultural Law of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) provides a comprehensive framework for promoting agroecology and sustainable agricultural practices by addressing long-standing challenges that have persisted in the agricultural sector. Through its provisions on sustainable development, local processing, and involvement of stakeholders, the law provides a supportive framework for advancing agroecology in the DRC as follows: a) Its seeks to provide a framework for integrating social and environmental issues, promoting decentralization, recognizing the diversity of agricultural practices and seeking to integrate agroecological considerations in the administration and management of land and agricultural resources.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
			b) It lays a basis for the development of agroecology-related policies relevant to different agroecological zones in DRC. The law provides a foundation for the development of agricultural potential, stimulating production for food self-sufficiency, boosting exports for investment, and promoting local agricultural processing. c) The law introduces innovations such as the creation of a National Agricultural Development Fund and involves farmers and professionals in decision-making processes through local and regional advisory councils. d) It also addresses international requirements on genetic resource conservation and environmental protection while strengthening mechanisms for monitoring agricultural land use and production.
		Identified gaps/weaknesses	Despite the Fundamental Agricultural Law providing a comprehensive framework aimed at promoting sustainable agriculture, several gaps and weaknesses exist in the context of climate change and the socio-economic conditions of the DRC. Some of these gaps/weaknesses include: i) The law does not adequately address the specific challenges posed by climate change, such as extreme weather events, which can significantly affect agricultural productivity. ii) Despite acknowledging the importance of Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) for food security and development, the law lacks concrete measures to enhance the adaptive capacity of farming communities to long-term climatic trends. There is a need for stronger emphasis on CSA practices and technologies to mitigate the impacts of climate change on agriculture. iii) The DRC faces significant infrastructure deficits, including poor transport infrastructure and unreliable electricity supply, which impede agricultural productivity and growth. The law does not sufficiently address these infrastructure challenges, which are crucial for improving market access and enhancing agricultural value chains. iv) The DRC suffers from governance issues, including corruption and weak institutional capacity, which hinder the effective implementation of agricultural policies and programs. The law does not adequately address these governance challenges, which are essential for promoting agricultural development and resilience.
		Mitigation	i) The law needs to prioritize measures to alleviate poverty, improve access to food, and address malnutrition, particularly among vulnerable populations. ii) The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) needs to revise its legal framework particularly for agricultural purposes. The current system lacks security for landholders and fails to promote sustainable land use. iii) Reforms should also focus on empowering women and marginalized groups engaged in subsistence farming to adopt sustainable and economically viable agricultural practices.
		Responsible	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. Adresse: 129, avenue Amilcar Cabral, Mpila, Brazzaville, Congo Email : contact@minagri.gouv.cg, Ministère de l'Agriculture de l'Élevage et de la Pêche

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
			https://agriculture.gouv.cg/
Congo	8. Contribution Déterminée à l'échelle Nationale/Determined National Contribution 2022	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	Nationally Determined Contribution is a multi-sectoral document of the Democratic Republic of Congo with a national scope whose main objective is to promote a green, resilient and low-carbon economy by rationally and sustainably managing its important natural resources. in order to guarantee ecological balance and the social, economic, cultural and environmental well-being of its population. On Agriculture it promotes the following objectives: i) The NDC aims to increase the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices, such as agroforestry, integrated soil fertility management, and sustainable livestock management. The goal is to enhance the resilience of agricultural systems and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the sector. ii) The NDC focuses on improving agricultural productivity and diversifying crop and livestock production to enhance food security and income generation for smallholder farmers. This includes supporting the use of improved, climate-resilient crop varieties and livestock breeds. iii) The NDC recognizes the importance of building the capacity of smallholder farmers, particularly women and youth, to adopt sustainable and climate-smart agricultural practices. This involves providing training, technical assistance, and access to climate-resilient agricultural inputs and technologies. iv) The NDC aims to enhance smallholder farmers' access to agricultural value chains, including markets, storage facilities, and processing infrastructure. This is intended to improve the commercialization of agricultural products and increase incomes for farmers. v) The NDC emphasizes the need for sustainable management of land and water resources, including through the implementation of agroforestry, soil conservation, and water harvesting techniques. This is crucial for maintaining the productivity and resilience of agricultural systems. vi) The NDC calls for the reinforcement of institutional and policy frameworks to support the implementation of climate-smart agricultural practices and the integration of climate change considerations into agricultural development plans. Key Highlights i) The NDC covers the period from 2022 to 2030, aligning with the country's long-term low-emission development strategy. ii) The main targets include reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 28.4% by 2030, compared to a business-as-usual scenario. iii) In the agriculture sector, the NDC emphasizes the promotion of sustainable and climate-smart practices, such as agroforestry, integrated soil fertility management, and crop-livestock diversification.
		Current Status	It was officially submitted to the UNFCCC in September 2022.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
		Support for Agroecology	i) The NDC explicitly highlights the promotion of agroforestry as a key climate-smart agricultural practice that aligns with agroecological principles. It also emphasizes the need to diversify crop and livestock production, which is a fundamental tenet of agroecology. ii) The NDC calls for the implementation of sustainable land and water management practices, such as soil conservation, water harvesting, and integrated pest management. These approaches are closely associated with agroecological approaches to natural resource stewardship. iii) The NDC recognizes the importance of strengthening the capacity of smallholder farmers, particularly in the adoption of climate-smart and agroecological practices. It also aims to improve farmers' access to appropriate, agroecology-compatible inputs and technologies. iv) The NDC's focus on enhancing the climate resilience and adaptive capacity of the agricultural sector aligns with agroecology's emphasis on building resilience through diversified and regenerative farming systems. v) The NDC acknowledges the value of incorporating traditional and indigenous agricultural knowledge, which often reflects agroecological principles, into its implementation. vi) The NDC calls for the reinforcement of institutional and policy frameworks to support the integration of climate change considerations, including agroecological approaches, into agricultural development plans and programs.
		Identified gaps/weaknesses	Key gaps in the NDC include: i) While the NDC mentions the promotion of agroecological practices, such as agroforestry and diversified farming systems, it does not set specific targets or indicators to measure the adoption and impact of these approaches. ii) The NDC does not place a strong emphasis on supporting agroecological research, experimentation, and innovation, which are crucial for adapting agroecological approaches to the local context. iii) While the NDC mentions improving access to agricultural value chains, it does not specifically address the development of value chains for agroecological products, such as organic or locally-adapted crops and livestock. iv) The NDC recognizes the importance of climate-smart agriculture, but the connections between agroecological approaches and their specific contributions to climate change adaptation could be better highlighted and articulated. v) The NDC does not explicitly mention the involvement of civil society organizations, farmer groups, or other key stakeholders in the design and implementation of agroecological interventions.
		Mitigation	i) Incorporating clear quantitative and qualitative targets for agroecological transitions would help drive implementation and track progress. ii) Investing in agroecological research and development could help generate context-specific solutions and evidence to scale up these practices. iii) Strengthening the value chains and ensuring fair market access for agroecological producers could further incentivize the adoption of these practices.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings	
			iv) Emphasizing the role of agroecology in building resilience and adaptive capacity could strengthen the case for its integration. v) Enhancing stakeholder engagement, particularly with smallholder farmers and agroecology advocates, could help ensure that the NDC's agroecology-related measures are responsive to local needs and priorities.	
		Responsible	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. Adresse: 129, avenue Amilcar Cabral, Mpila, Brazzaville, Congo Email : contact@minagri.gouv.cg	Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) https://medd.gouv.cd/ 15 Av : Papa ILEO Gombe / Kinshasa. +243 816500333 / +243 891118392, info@medd.gouv.cd
Congo	9. Plan National D'investissement Agricole en RDC (PNIA) 2014-2020/ The National Agricultural Investment and Food Security Plan (PNIASA) 2021-2025	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	The main objectives of the PNIASA 2021-2025 include: i) Increasing agricultural productivity and production ii) Improving food and nutrition security iii) Promoting the commercialization of agricultural products iv) Strengthening the resilience of the agricultural sector to climate change The plan focuses on eight priority value chains: maize, rice, cassava, palm oil, coffee, cocoa, livestock, and fisheries. It also emphasizes the importance of sustainable and climate-smart agricultural practices, as well as the integration of youth and women in the agricultural sector.	
		Current Status	It was launched in 2021 and is intended to cover the period from 2021 to 2025, succeeding the previous PNIA 2014-2020 plan.	
		Support for Agroecology	the National Agricultural Investment and Food Security Plan (PNIASA) 2021-2025 for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) directly supports the integration of agroecology in several ways: i) The plan emphasizes the importance of promoting sustainable land management techniques, such as agroforestry, soil conservation, and the use of organic fertilizers. ii) The PNIASA highlights the need to adopt climate-smart agricultural practices, which align with agroecological principles, to enhance the resilience of the agricultural sector. iii) The plan encourages the diversification of agricultural production systems, including the integration of crops, livestock, and trees, which is a core tenet of agroecology. iv) The PNIASA includes provisions for training and capacity building of agricultural extension workers on agroecological approaches to support their dissemination to farmers. v) The plan aims to facilitate smallholder farmers' access to organic fertilizers, biopesticides, and other agroecological inputs through targeted interventions. vi) The plan supports the development of value chains for agroecological products, such as organic certified crops and livestock, to create market opportunities for smallholder farmers.	

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
			vii) The PNIASA recognizes the importance of incorporating traditional and indigenous agricultural knowledge, which often aligns with agroecological principles, into its implementation. viii) The plan emphasizes the need for strong coordination and collaboration between the government, research institutions, civil society, and farmers to support the adoption of agroecological approaches.
		Gaps and weaknesses	i) Limited Funding and Investment ii) Weak Extension Services and Technical Support iii) Inadequate Policy and Regulatory Framework iv) Limited Access to Agroecological Inputs and Technologies v) Knowledge Gaps and Cultural Barriers vi) Lack of Coordination and Integrated Approaches vii) Insufficient Monitoring and Evaluation
		Mitigations	i) Establish a dedicated agroecology unit or focal point within the institutions responsible for the PNIASA implementation to champion the integration of agroecological approaches. ii) Encourage research institutions and universities to collaborate on agroecological innovations and knowledge-sharing, tailored to the local context. iii) Engage with civil society organizations, farmer associations, and women's groups to amplify the voices and needs of smallholder farmers in the implementation of the PNIASA. iv) Explore opportunities for south-south and triangular cooperation to learn from other countries' experiences in scaling up agroecology. v) Integrate agroecological approaches into the PNIASA's capacity building and technical assistance programs for farmers and extension workers. vi) Ensure that the monitoring and evaluation framework for the PNIASA includes specific indicators to track the adoption and impact of agroecological practices.
		Responsible	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.
Congo	10. Plan National d'Adaptation aux Changements Climatiques (2022-2026)/National Adaptation Plan to Climate Change (NAP) of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) (2022 – 2026)	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	i) The National Adaptation Plan (NAP), for the period 2022–2026, was developed to strengthen the country's resilience and to integrate climate change adaptation into planning and budgeting at both the national and provincial levels Aims and Objectives: ii) The aim of the National Adaptation Plan to Climate Change (NAP) of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is to guide initiatives for managing and reducing long-term climate risks in the country. It seeks to enhance climate resilience across various sectors, including agriculture, fisheries, energy, transportation, forestry, water resources, health, and coastal zones. The NAP aims to address the adverse impacts of climate change, such as high temperatures, land degradation, extreme weather events, and longer dry seasons. Objectives of the NAP include:

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
			iii) Facilitating coordination and cooperation among different levels of government, economic sectors, civil society, and other stakeholders to effectively mitigate climate risks. iv) Strengthening institutional capacities for adaptation planning and implementation at national, provincial, and local levels. v) Enhancing data collection, management, and dissemination to support climate-smart decision-making and adaptive strategies. vi) Integrating adaptation measures into national development plans and policies to mainstream climate resilience across sectors. vii) Developing financing plans and mobilizing resources to support the implementation of adaptation initiatives. Key Highlights i) It highlights the need to engage diverse stakeholders which would include farmer organizations and local communities who are custodians of cultural knowledge and expertise relevant in ensuring agroecologically aligned agricultural practices. ii) The National Adaptation Plan to Climate Change (NAP) is a comprehensive strategy aimed at managing and reducing long-term climate risks in the country. Developed by the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD), the NAP aligns with key national and international frameworks, including the National Climate Change Policy, Strategy and Action Plan (PSPA-CC), the National Strategic Development Plan of the DRC (PNSD), and the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). iii) The NAP acknowledges the vulnerability of the DRC to climate change impacts, such as high temperatures, land degradation, extreme weather events, and longer dry seasons. It emphasizes the need for coordinated efforts among different levels of government, economic sectors, and civil society to mitigate these risks effectively. Key priorities identified include agriculture, fisheries, energy, transportation, forestry, water resources, health, and coastal zones. iv) Specific chapters within the NAP outline crucial aspects, such as the legal and institutional framework, availability of climate data, adaptation priorities, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and recommendations for further action. For instance, Chapter 3 focuses on the legal basis and institutional arrangements, highlighting recommendations to ensure relevance for sectoral agencies and alignment with existing legal frameworks. Meanwhile, Chapter 5 identifies adaptation priorities based on strategies, policies, and plans related to climate change. v) The NAP reflects the DRC's commitment to addressing climate change and integrating adaptation measures into national planning processes. Notably, it mentions ongoing efforts to monitor and evaluate adaptation initiatives, with recommendations for strengthening the monitoring framework. The plan also emphasizes the importance of securing financing to support adaptation actions.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
		Current Status	i) The development of the NAP has been supported by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with contributions from thematic networks comprising experts from various sectors. Extensive public participation was ensured through a call for contributions and a public consultation process. The plan underwent validation during a national consultation workshop held in Kinshasa on 28 January 2021. ii) As of its development and validation in January 2021, the NAP represents a significant milestone in the DRC's climate resilience efforts. Moving forward, the plan is expected to undergo further refinement and integration into the country's monitoring framework. Key next steps include comprehensive vulnerability assessments, development of financing plans, and continued collaboration with stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of adaptation measures. iii) The plan was officially adopted by the Congolese government in 2022 and aims to strengthen the country's ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change.
		Support for Agroecology	The National Adaptation Plan to Climate Change (NAP) acknowledges the critical role of agroecology in enhancing climate resilience by: i) Prioritizing Agroecological Practices in the Agriculture Sector: The NAP specifically identifies the promotion of agroecological farming practices as a key adaptation strategy for the agriculture sector. This includes supporting the use of organic fertilizers, integrated pest management, and crop diversification. ii) Enhancing Climate-Smart Agriculture: The NAP aims to enhance climate-smart agricultural techniques that align with agroecological principles, such as water harvesting, soil conservation, and the use of drought-resistant crop varieties. iii) Strengthening Extension Services for Agroecology: The plan calls for the capacity building of agricultural extension services to provide training and support to farmers on the adoption of agroecological practices. iv) Promoting Sustainable Land Management: The NAP emphasizes the importance of sustainable land management practices, including agroforestry, agro-silvo-pastoral systems, and the restoration of degraded lands. v) Diversifying Agricultural Production: The plan supports the diversification of agricultural production systems, which is a key tenet of agroecology, to enhance resilience to climate change impacts. vi) Improving Access to Agroecological Inputs: The NAP includes measures to improve access to agroecological inputs, such as organic fertilizers, biopesticides, and improved seed varieties, for smallholder farmers. vii) Integrating Indigenous and Traditional Knowledge: The plan recognizes the value of incorporating indigenous and traditional knowledge, which often aligns with agroecological principles, into climate change adaptation strategies.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
		Identified gaps/weaknesses	i) Lack of resource allocation frameworks, and monitoring mechanisms may compromise the effectiveness of the plan. ii) Lack of emphasis on addressing the needs of vulnerable communities, including smallholder farmers, women, and marginalized groups which is essential for ensuring equitable adaptation outcomes. iii) Limited guidance on how traditional practices and indigenous wisdom can be effectively integrated into adaptation strategies. iv) Lack of clear roadmap for strengthening institutional capacity to support adaptation initiatives.
		Mitigation	i. Need for more robust mechanisms to track progress, assess impacts, and adjust strategies accordingly including enhancing data collection, reporting frameworks, and stakeholder engagement to ensure accountability and learning
		Responsible	Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) https://medd.gouv.cd/ 15 Av: Papa ILEO, Gombe / Kinshasa. +243 816500333 / +243 891118392, info@medd.gouv.cd
Congo	11. Plan Strategique Multisectoriel De Nutrition De La RDC 2023 – 2030/National Multisectoral Strategic Nutrition Plan of the DRC 2023 – 2030	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	The plan focuses on five key areas: 1) improving access to nutritious foods, 2) promoting breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices, 3) preventing and treating malnutrition, 4) strengthening the nutrition workforce, and 5) improving nutrition governance. The plan is being implemented by a multi-sectoral committee, which includes representatives from the government, civil society, and the private sector. The committee is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the plan and ensuring that it is aligned with the national development plan.
		Current Status	The National Multisectoral Strategic Nutrition Plan of the DRC 2023 – 2030 is currently in operation in Congo. The plan was launched in January 2024
		Support for Agroecology	The National Multisectoral Strategic Nutrition Plan of the DRC 2023-2030 includes several components that support agroecological approaches: i) Promotion of Diversified, Nutrient-Rich Foods: The plan aims to increase the availability and affordability of diverse, nutrient-dense foods. This aligns with agroecological principles of promoting agricultural biodiversity and polyculture farming. ii) Support for Smallholder Farmers: The plan recognizes the important role of smallholder farmers, particularly women, in producing nutritious foods. It includes interventions to support small-scale, sustainable agricultural practices. iii) Emphasis on Food Fortification and Biofortification: iv) The plan promotes the use of food fortification and biofortification techniques to enhance the nutrient content of staple crops. This can help diversify the nutrient profile of available foods.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
			v) Sustainable Land and Water Management: The plan encourages the adoption of agroecological practices such as soil conservation, water harvesting, and integrated pest management to improve the sustainability of food production. vi) Capacity Building for Farmers: The plan includes training and extension support for farmers to adopt agroecological farming methods, improve post-harvest handling, and increase access to markets. vii) Coordination with the Agricultural Sector: The plan emphasizes the need for stronger coordination between the nutrition and agriculture sectors to align policies and programs that support agroecological approaches.
		Identified gaps/ weaknesses	viii) Limited Funding and Investment ix) Weak Extension Services and Technical Support x) Inadequate Policy and Regulatory Framework xi) Limited Access to Agroecological Inputs and Technologies xii) Knowledge Gaps and Cultural Barriers xiii) Lack of Coordination and Integrated Approaches xiv) Insufficient Monitoring and Evaluation
		Mitigation	i) Establish a dedicated agroecology unit or focal point within the multi-sectoral nutrition committee to champion the integration of agroecological approaches. ii) Encourage research institutions and universities to collaborate on agroecological innovations and knowledge-sharing. iii) Engage with civil society organizations and farmer groups to amplify the voices and needs of smallholder farmers in the implementation of the plan. iv) Explore opportunities for south-south and triangular cooperation to learn from other countries' experiences in scaling up agroecology
		Responsible	
AGROECOLOGY AND RELATED POLICIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI			
Burundi	1. Document D'orientation Politique Environnementale, Agricole et D'élevage-DOPEAE 2020/Orientation Document Environmental,	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	Aims and Objectives i) Provide a strategic orientation for the environmental, agricultural, and livestock sectors ii) Promote sustainable management of natural resources iii) Enhance agricultural productivity and production iv) Support the development of the livestock sector v) Strengthen cross-sectoral coordination and integration

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
	Agricultural and livestock policy-DOPEAE 2020		Scope The DOPEAE covers a wide range of topics, including land use, forests, biodiversity, climate change, crop production, livestock, and value chains. Main Highlights i) The DOPEAE adopts an integrated and cross-sectoral approach to address environmental, agricultural, and livestock issues in a holistic manner. ii) The policy emphasizes the sustainable management of natural resources, including land, forests, water, and biodiversity. It promotes the adoption of sustainable practices, such as agroforestry, integrated pest management, and sustainable grazing. iii) The DOPEAE aims to increase agricultural productivity and production through the use of improved inputs, technologies, and extension services. It also focuses on the development of agricultural value chains and market access. iv) The policy supports the development of the livestock sector, including the improvement of animal health, genetic resources, and feeding practices. It also addresses the integration of livestock into agricultural systems and the promotion of sustainable pastoralism. v) The DOPEAE recognizes the importance of addressing the impacts of climate change and promoting climate-smart agricultural and livestock practices. vi) The policy emphasizes the need to strengthen institutional capacities and improve governance mechanisms across the environmental, agricultural, and livestock sectors. vii) The DOPEAE emphasizes the importance of multi-stakeholder engagement, including with local communities, civil society, the private sector, and development partners. viii) The policy is designed to align with the Democratic Republic of the Congo's national development priorities and its international commitments, such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate change.
		Current Status	i) The government of Burundi has made significant efforts to strengthen the agriculture policy, and identifying priority agro ecological issues. The policy is being implemented as from 2022 and the projects identified have helped the country in overall move towards more sustainable farming practices.
		Support for Agroecology	i) The DOPEAE encourages practices that increase agricultural yields without harming the environment. ii) The policy promotes techniques to improve soil fertility and reduce erosion. iii) The DOPEAE policy calls for involving local communities in agricultural development.
		Identified gaps/weaknesses	i) Enforcing environmental regulations and protecting forests, especially in remote areas, remains a challenge due to resource constraints and capacity limitations. ii) Many Burundian farmers might not be fully aware of the importance of sustainable practices and the benefits of agroecology. This limits their adoption.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
			iii) The DOPEAE does not adequately involve the private sector in promoting sustainable agricultural practices and creating markets for agroecological products. iv) The policy does not fully address the challenges posed by climate change, such as increased drought and erratic rainfall patterns.
		Mitigation	i) Policy should promote agroecological principles and practices. This can include intercropping, integrated pest management, promoting biodiversity, and techniques for conserving soil health. ii) Policy should provide for mechanisms for training and extension services for farmers and government officials on agroecology. This will equip them with the knowledge and skills to implement these practices effectively. iii) The policy should advocate awareness campaigns to educate farmers and the broader population about the importance of sustainable agriculture and the benefits of agroecology.
		Responsible	The Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock in Burundi- MINEAGRIE +257 71509242 / +257 77789823 Avenue Triomphe / Q Musinzira, Gitega Bujumbura, Burundi
Burundi	2. Politique Forestière Nationale 2012-2025/National Forest Policy 2012-2025	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	Aims and Objectives The national Forest Policy aims to: i) Sustainably manage forest resources and increasing forest resources to 20% by 2025, ii) Plan the development of the forest sector by meeting the needs of the population while perpetuating the resources, supported by practices such as agroforestry and carrying out EIAs
		Current Status	i) Launched in 2018, as part of the objectives of this policy, the National Reforestation Program is ongoing and aims to increase forest cover. While not strictly agroecological, it highlights a commitment to reversing deforestation trends. Over the past four years, at least 150 million trees of various species have been planted throughout the nation, covering an area of 50,000 hectares.
		Support for Agroecology	i) This policy advocates practices such as agroforestry which promote biodiversity ii) Advocates for improved governance and innovative practices which ensure the needs of the people are met while perpetuating the forest resources. iii) The policy advocates adoption of Environmental Impact Assessments as part of understanding peoples' needs and how development/status of the forest resources affects them. iv) The reforestation program plants trees of various species, mimicking natural forest composition, promoting biodiversity
		Identified gaps/weaknesses	i) The policy does not encourage practices like intercropping (planting multiple crops together), integrating trees into fields, or using natural pest control methods. ii) The policy does not have strong mechanisms for involving local communities in forest management decisions. iii) Local communities are not fully aware of the importance of protecting existing forests and the benefits of agroecological practices.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
			iv) Effectively enforcing regulations to prevent deforestation can be difficult, especially in remote areas where the population rely mostly on wood energy.
		Mitigation	i) The policy needs to be rich in promoting practices like alley cropping in planting rows of trees alongside crops to provide shade, improve soil fertility, and create additional income sources. ii) Minimizing soil disturbance and promoting biodiversity. iii) The policy to advocate for training of government officials, extension workers, and farmers on agro ecological practices. This can help build the knowledge and skills necessary for widespread adoption. iv) Policy needs to develop and include mechanisms for involving local communities in decision-making processes related to forest management. This can foster a sense of ownership and encourage short and long term sustainable practices. v) Policy to advocate for adoption of alternative energy sources by the population
		Responsible	MEEATU-Ministry of Water, Environment, Territorial Planning and Urban Planning Quartier Rohero. Avenue de la Cathédrale. Bujumbura. Bujumbura Mairie. Burundi +257 22224979 +257 22404277
Burundi	3. Plan National de Développement du Burundi PND 2018-2027/National Development Plan for Burundi PND 2018-2027	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	Aims and Objectives i) Strengthening food self-sufficiency and diversification of exports through the promotion of agro-industrial companies ii) Ensuring sustainable environmental management iii) Mitigating climate change effects iv) Improve land use planning v) Strengthening governance vi) Develop regional and international cooperation
		Current Status	i) A national steering committee (CNP) responsible for coordination and management of the development of the PND was implemented, by Presidential Decree No. 100/118 of May 31, 2017. This committee formalized this process by the appointment of a subdivided technical committee into ten sub-commissions and given support by a technical secretariat responsible for the compilation of subcommittee reports. The National Committee is chaired by the Head of the Civil Cabinet. ii) On march 20 th 2024, the draft of the revised National Development Plan of Burundi 2018-2027 and its priority action plan. The plan was analyzed during this meeting, was presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning. 69 projects were identified through the revised PND priority action plan for a total amount of 107,461.72 billion over the period 2023-2027. After analysis, the document was adopted.
		Support for Agroecology	i) The plan proposes strengthening institutional and organizational capacity ii) The plan promotes sustainable water use, soil conservation, and watershed management, aligning with the objective of having sufficient water in quantity and quality.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
			iii) The plan promotes minimizing the use of chemical inputs and promotes natural pest and disease control, contributing to pollution control and environmental sanitation. iv) The plan calls decisions that consider ecological factors, social needs, and economic viability, promoting rational land use.
		Identified gaps/ weaknesses	i) The Plan does not fully address how to increase agricultural resilience in the face of climate challenges like increased droughts and erratic rainfall patterns. ii) The Plan does not adequately involve the private sector in promoting sustainable agricultural practices and creating markets for agroecological products. The plan does not adequately address the deficiencies in training and support for farmers on how to implement agroecological practices effectively. This could hinder adoption of the plan at the grassroots
		Mitigation	i) The plan to integrate agroecological principles into specific programs and strategies, and developing capacity of farmers, extension workers, and government institutions to support these practices. ii) Plan should provide incentives for farmers to adopt agroecological methods. iii) Plan should adequately address land tenure issues to promote long term sustainable development by farmers.
		Responsible	Technical Secretariat housed within the Ministry of ministry of Foreign affairs and Development Boulevard de la Liberté No. 15 B.P 1840 Bujumbura-Burundi +25722250678
Burundi	4. Plan National d'Investissement Agricole 2021-2027/NAIP/PNIA-National Agriculture Investment Plan 2021-2027	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	Aims and Objectives i) The plan seeks to create an enabling environment for improved competitiveness in the agricultural and rural sectors. The key objectives of the PNIA-National Agriculture Investment Plan 2021-2027 for Burundi include: i) Increasing agricultural productivity and production. ii) Improving food and nutrition security. iii) Promoting sustainable management of natural resources. iv) Strengthening agricultural value chains and market access. v) Building the resilience of the agricultural sector to climate change.
		Current Status	i) The PNIA plan was developed and finalized in 2020 through a consultative process involving various stakeholders in Burundi's agriculture sector. ii) It was then formally adopted and approved by the government of Burundi in 2020 to serve as the national agriculture investment plan for the period of 2021 to 2027.
		Support for Agroecology	i) While the specific details on agroecology support within this plan are not readily available the PNIA aligns with broader national development strategies, such as the National Development Plan of Burundi (PND 2018-2027) in which Agroecology is often integrated into national policies as a means to enhance food security, environmental sustainability, and resilience.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
			ii) The PNIA may indirectly support agroecology by promoting practices that conserve natural resources, reduce chemical inputs, and enhance ecosystem services. Agroecological principles, such as crop diversification, soil conservation, and integrated pest management, can contribute to sustainable agricultural development. iii) The PNIA involves collaboration with various stakeholders, including government agencies, non-profit organizations, and farmers. Agroecology requires multi-sectoral efforts, and the PNIA could serve as a platform for integrating agroecological practices into mainstream agricultural activities.
		Responsible	The Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock in Burundi- MINEAGRIE +257 71509242 / +257 77789823 Avenue Triomphe / Q Musinzira, Gitega Bujumbura, Burundi
Burundi	5. Contributions Nationales Déterminées-NDC 2021/National Determined Contributions-NDC 2021	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	Aims and Objectives i) Promoting sustainable land management practices such as replacing mineral fertilizers with organic manure by 2030. ii) Burundi aims to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2030 compared to the business-as-usual scenario. iii) Increasing the use of renewable energy sources. iv) Burundi commits to increasing forest cover through afforestation and reforestation efforts. v) Enhancing resilience to climate shocks in the agricultural sector. Main Highlights vi) The NDC includes the development of a logical framework to monitor and assess the implementation of the priority mitigation and adaptation actions. Women, youth, indigenous communities, researchers, civil society and the private sector participated in its revision, helping ensure that the path of climate action in Burundi considers the distinct needs of communities from the ground level up.
		Current Status	i) Initial NDC plan was published in 2015. ii) Revision was carried out in October 2021. iii) It was submitted to the public registry of the UN on 05/10/2021. A second revision was done in June 2022.
		Support for Agroecology	i) The plan advocates for increased reforestation ii) The plan promotes phasing out of mineral fertilizers and replacing them with organic
		Identified gaps/weaknesses	i) The plan has limited emphasis on capacity building, such as the need for training farmers, extension workers, and government institutions on implementing agroecological approaches effectively.
		Mitigation	i) Integrating agroecological principles into strategies and action plans. ii) Addressing capacity building needs of stakeholders involved in implementing agroecology.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
		Responsible	The Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock in Burundi- MINEAGRIE +257 71509242 / +257 77789823 Avenue Triomphe / Q Musinzira, Gitega Bujumbura, Burundi
Burundi	6. Stratégie Nationale pour la Biodiversité 2002 SNPA-DB/National Biodiversity Strategy 2002 SNPA-DB	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	Aims and objectives The main objective is aimed at Conservation and rational use and equitable sharing of national biodiversity, which is broken down into 5 objectives. i) Coordinated Management: Strengthening coordination, measures, and frameworks for biodiversity management. ii) Research and Information: Facilitating research, information exchange, and management related to biodiversity. iii) Impact Reduction: Managing and minimizing negative impacts on biodiversity. iv) Sustainable Use and Benefit Sharing: Promoting sustainable use and equitable sharing of biodiversity costs and benefits. v) Awareness Enhancement: Raising awareness among stakeholders about biodiversity issues. Main Highlights vi) Since the initial NBSAP, Burundi has submitted four national reports to the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). vii) The fourth report (produced in March 2009) evaluated the implementation of the biodiversity policy. viii) The revised NBSAP aimed to address gaps and align with evolving global biodiversity goals.
		Current Status	i) Since the development of the SNPA-DB, Burundi has been able to produce and submit 4 national reports. ii) The Fourth Report was produced in March 2009, approximately 10 years later, and focused on evaluating the implementation of this biodiversity policy document. The revision process was started in May 2012. A national for validation workshop was held in February 2013 before its submission to the Council of Ministers for adoption. iii) Revised NBSAP (2013-2020) was adopted in 2020.
		Support for Agroecology	i) The NBSAP encourages the adoption of agroecological practices that enhance biodiversity on farms. Examples include crop rotation, intercropping, and organic farming methods that maintain soil health and support diverse plant and animal species. ii) Agroecology emphasizes the use of native plant species in agriculture. The NBSAP include strategies to conserve and promote native crops, trees, and pollinators. iii) Agroecology aligns with the NBSAP's focus on ecosystem-based management. By mimicking natural ecosystems, agroecological practices enhance soil fertility, reduce chemical inputs, and support beneficial insects.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
			iv) The NBSAP recognizes the importance of agrobiodiversity for food security and resilience. Agroecology contributes to the conservation of traditional crop varieties, local breeds, and wild relatives. v) Agroecology promotes Integrated Pest Management, which minimizes pesticide use and relies on natural enemies to control pests. The NBSAP advocate for IPM adoption to protect biodiversity and human health. vi) Agroecology thrives in a context of local knowledge and community involvement. The NBSAP can facilitate knowledge exchange, capacity building, and farmer-to-farmer learning. vii) The NBSAP can integrate agroecology into broader policies related to agriculture, land use, and conservation. By mainstreaming agroecology, Burundi can achieve its biodiversity goals while supporting sustainable farming practices.
		Responsible	The Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock in Burundi- MINEAGRIE +257 71509242 / +257 77789823, Avenue Triomphe / Q Musinzira, Gitega Bujumbura, Burundi
Burundi	7. National Biodiversity Bill, 2013	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	The draft law on biodiversity in Burundi was developed as part of the project “improving the effectiveness of the protected area management system in Burundi” implemented by OBPE. The objectives of the bill are: i) Guarantee the preservation and rational management of biodiversity, for the benefit of present and future generations; ii) Integrate conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into sectoral policies, plans and programs; iii) Promote the active participation of all sectors of society in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; iv) Promote education and public awareness on the conservation and use of biodiversity; v) Promote biodiversity including ecosystem services; vi) Improve governance for effective management of biodiversity components; vii) Recognize the rights arising from traditional knowledge associated with biological resources; viii) Regulate access to biological resources and associated traditional knowledge; ix) Promote national, regional and international cooperation to ensure the conservation, sustainable use and distribution of benefits arising from biodiversity, particularly in border areas or shared resources; x) Promote the adoption of positive incentive measures for the conservation of biodiversity.
		Current Status	The bill was published on 1 st November 2013 and has been adopted as a working document.
		Support for Agroecology	The bill is dedicated to ensuring that the relevant stakeholders integrate the conservation and sustainable biodiversity practices in their sectoral plans, programs and policies and relevant cross-sectoral frameworks.
		Identified gaps/ weaknesses	This bill does not provide for a central coordinating body for biodiversity initiatives.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
		Mitigation	The bill should consider creating a dedicated body responsible for coordinating and overseeing all national biodiversity initiatives.
		Responsible	Burundian Office for the Protection of the Environment (BOPE) B.P: 56 Gitega et B.P. 2757 Bujumbura,+257 22403031
Burundi	8. Strategic Framework For Environmental And Social Management 2020	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	Main highlights This document presents the Strategic Framework for Environmental and Social Management of the Office of Burundian Office for the Protection of the Environment (BOPE) It is designed to serve as a guide to make available to BOPE projects and programs, the tools to properly design their Environmental and Social Management Frameworks and properly develop their Environmental and Social Impact Management Plan (ESIMP). Aims and Objectives The overall objective of the ESMF is to promote and facilitate the integration of environmental and social concerns in the process of design, planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of projects and programs implemented by the Office and others actors. It does this through the following specific objectives i) Describe the procedures for assessing environmental risks. ii) Describe the environmental and social management system. iii) Describe the methodology for managing environmental and social risks. iv) Facilitate the identification and assessment of environmental and social risks, by emphasizing screening, environmental screening, environmental and social assessment and the management of environmental and social impacts. v) Describe the mechanism for managing environmental and social complaints. vi) Describe the mitigation measures for the identified negative impacts. vii) Provide the appropriate information resources to execute and follow the ESMF recommendations. viii) Describe the environmental and social monitoring process. ix) Identify the stakeholders in the institutional framework of the ESMF.
		Current Status	The ESMF was published on 1st April 2020.
		Support for Agroecology	i) Land Use Planning and Management-The ESMF emphasizes sustainable land use practices, including crop diversification, soil conservation techniques, and integrated pest management. ii) The ESIA process helps assess the potential impacts of projects on the social and agricultural eco systems. iii) Community engagement in the ESIA and ESIMP processes give some possibility for local agro-ecological knowledge and practices to be considered and integrated into project design and implementation.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
		Identified gaps/ weaknesses	i) While this framework recognizes the importance of public participation, it lacks details on the specific mechanisms for engaging communities, such as frequency, methods of communication, and ensuring representation of diverse stakeholder groups. ii) The framework does not mention the extent to which community feedback can influence project design or mitigation measures. iii) The ESMF doesn't address how the effectiveness of public participation will be monitored and evaluated, leaving room for potential inconsistencies or limited impact of community engagement.
		Mitigation	i) The ESMF should develop clear guidelines establishing specific guidelines outlining the frequency, methods, and channels for public consultations throughout the ESIA process and ensure that consultations reach diverse stakeholder groups within affected communities, including women, youth, and marginalized populations. ii) The ESMF should be clear on the need for utilization of multiple and accessible communication channels and mechanisms which should be clearly outlined. iii) Enhancing the decision-Making Power of the people: The ESMF should consider establishing mechanisms for communities to have a say in project design and mitigation measures.
		Responsible	Burundian Office for the Protection of the Environment (BOPE) B.P: 56 Gitega et B.P. 2757 Bujumbura,+257 22403031
Burundi	9. Law No. 1/02 of March 26, 2012 on the water code in Burundi	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	i) Law No. 1/02 of March 26, 2012 in Burundi, known as the Water Code, serves to regulate the protection of water resources within the country. ii) The Law seeks to ensure sustainable water management, balancing conservation, utilization, and protection, while holding polluters accountable for their impact on water resources. The law consists 158 articles which is composed of Scope and Fundamental Principles, Institutional Framework, Protection of Water Resources. iii) Combatting Harmful Effects on Water and covers aspects related to cross-border water bodies. Key Highlights: iv) Water code specifies that there is to be a national water regulatory authority created under the Ministry of Water, Environment, Land Management, and Urban Planning.
		Current Status	i) Following adoption of the national water policy in September 2009, drafting of the water code began. ii) Draft code was approved by the sector group on water and sanitation in early February 2010. iii) Promulgation of the water code was done during the October-December 2011 parliamentary session. iv) It entered into force on March 26, 2012 and is applicable in Burundi. Additionally, the Ministerial Joint Ordinance No. 770/468 of March 25, 2014 sets standards for the discharge of domestic and industrial wastewater in Burundi. v) Furthermore Law No. 1/27 of December 29, 2017, revised the penal code, makes it illegal to introduce pollutants into Burundi's water with the intent to cause harm or terror.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
		Support for Agroecology	i) It supports agroecology through its provisions related to sustainable water management and conservation. ii) Focusing on efficient and equitable water use aligns with the principles of agroecology. iii) Water management is crucial in agroecology, as it involves optimizing water use, conserving water resources, and minimizing environmental impact. iv) Measures by the law to prevent water pollution, promote water recycling, and protect water bodies can benefit agroecological systems by ensuring the availability of water for crops, livestock, and ecosystems. v) The water code includes measures to protect and restore aquatic ecosystems, such as wetlands, rivers, and lakes, which are integral to agroecological landscapes. vi) The water code regulates irrigation practices to promote water-saving technologies, such as drip irrigation or rainwater harvesting, which align with agroecological principles. vii) The water code aligns with agroecology advocacy for equitable access to water resources, particularly for small-scale farmers and marginalized communities.
		Identified gaps/weaknesses	i) The water code lacks explicit provisions or incentives to encourage the adoption of agroecological practices by farmers. ii) Insufficient integration between water management policies and broader agricultural policies and programs. iii) Inadequate monitoring, compliance mechanisms, and penalties for non-compliance with water management regulations. iv) Small-scale farmers, particularly marginalized communities, may lack access to resources necessary for adopting agroecological practices. v) Insufficient training, technical support, and extension services to help farmers transition to agroecological practices. vi) Conflicting priorities between water management objectives and other development projects, such as large-scale irrigation or hydropower schemes.
		Mitigation	i) Integrate specific references to agroecological techniques and principles within the water code, such as promoting polyculture, agroforestry, and soil conservation practices. Provide incentives or subsidies for farmers who adopt agroecological methods. ii) Coordinate water management policies with agricultural strategies to ensure coherence and synergy in promoting sustainable farming practices. Establish inter-ministerial committees or working groups to facilitate collaboration between relevant government agencies. iii) Strengthen enforcement mechanisms through increased monitoring, inspections, and sanctions for violations of water-related regulations. Enhance capacity within regulatory agencies to enforce water laws effectively.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
			iv) Implement targeted policies and programs to improve access to land, water, seeds, and technical assistance for small-scale farmers interested in practicing agroecology. Prioritize support for vulnerable groups through targeted subsidies or land tenure reforms. v) Invest in capacity building initiatives, farmer training programs, and extension services focused on agroecology. Establish demonstration farms and farmer field schools to showcase successful agroecological practices and provide hands-on training. vi) Conduct comprehensive assessments of proposed water-related projects to identify potential conflicts with agroecological objectives.
		Responsible	
Burundi	10. Law No. 1/10 of May 30, 2011 relating to the creation and management of protected areas in Burundi	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	Objectives i) The law aims to conserve Burundi's rich biodiversity by establishing a system of protected areas encompassing representative ecosystems and threatened species. ii) The law promotes sustainable management practices within protected areas to ensure the long-term viability of natural resources and ecosystem services. iii) The law encourages the participation of local communities in the creation and management of protected areas, recognizing their knowledge and stewardship role. iv) The law seeks to generate economic benefits for local communities through tourism, sustainable resource use, and other activities associated with protected areas.
		Current Status	The law was published on 30 th May 2011.
		Support for Agroecology	i) Biodiversity Conservation. ii) Sustainable Resource Management. iii) Community Participation.
		Identified gaps/weaknesses	The law does not fully ensure meaningful community participation in decision-making processes related to protected areas, potentially leading to conflicts and resistance.
		Mitigation	The law should strengthen community engagement by developing participatory mechanisms that ensure communities have a voice in decision-making processes, benefit sharing, and conflict resolution within protected areas.
		Responsible	Burundian Office for the Protection of the Environment (BOPE) B.P: 56 Gitega et B.P. 2757 Bujumbura,+257 22403031
Burundi	11. Order No. 770/450 of May 6, 2022 relating to the	Aims, Objectives	This order establishes the framework for participatory management of protected areas in accordance with the law relating to the creation and management of protected areas in Burundi. Objectives

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
	participatory management framework of protected areas in Burundi	and Policy Thrust	i) The ordinance aims to enhance the participation of local communities in the management of protected areas, recognizing their vital role in conservation efforts. ii) It seeks to ensure that communities have a voice in decision-making processes related to protected areas and share in the benefits generated from their conservation. iii) The ordinance aims to establish mechanisms for resolving potential conflicts between protected area management authorities and local communities. iv) The law promotes the adoption of sustainable resource management practices within protected areas, involving communities in conservation activities.
		Current Status	The law was published on 6 th May 2022.
		Support for Agroecology	i) The law seeks to strengthen community participation. ii) Sustainable Resource Management.
		Identified gaps/weaknesses	i) The law does not provide sufficient details on the specific mechanisms for community participation, benefit-sharing, and conflict resolution within protected areas. ii) The law does not adequately address the need for capacity building within communities to effectively participate in protected area management. iii) The law does not fully address the potential power imbalances between protected area authorities and local communities, ensuring equitable participation and decision-making.
		Mitigation	i) The law should implement comprehensive capacity building programs for communities on protected area management, sustainable resource use, and leadership skills. ii) The law should establish clear and detailed guidelines outlining the specific mechanisms for community participation, benefit-sharing, and conflict resolution within protected areas. iii) The law should address potential power imbalances through clear mechanisms for community representation in decision-making.
		Responsible	
Burundi	12. Decree 100/22 relating implementing measures for the Environmental Code to the	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	Decree 100/22 concerns the implementing measures of the Environmental Code in relation to the procedure for carrying out an environmental impact study in Burundi. The purpose of this decree is to determine the conditions and modalities for implementing the environmental impact study procedure as set out in Chapter 3 of Title II of Law No. 1/010 of June 30, 2000 establishing the Code of the Environment of the Republic of Burundi. The decree seeks to meet the above main objective by: i) The decree aims to establish a clear and efficient process for conducting EIAs, ensuring that potential environmental and social impacts of projects are adequately assessed and mitigated. ii) By requiring EIA for certain projects, the decree seeks to encourage environmentally responsible development practices that minimize negative impacts on the environment and communities. iii) The decree encourages public participation in the EIA process, ensuring transparency and accountability in project development.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
		Current Status	Published on 7th October 2010.
		Support for Agroecology	i) Sustainable production and consumption. ii) Pollution reduction. iii) Restoration of ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being. iv) Streamlining of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process.
		Identified gaps/weaknesses	The decree does not fully guarantee meaningful public participation in the EIA process, lacking clear mechanisms for stakeholder engagement and grievance handling mechanism.
		Mitigation	i) The decree should ensure it is integrated with other relevant environmental regulations and standards, creating a coherent framework for environmental management. ii) Decree should establish clear and accessible mechanisms for public participation in the EIA process, including public hearings, information sharing, and grievance systems.
		Responsible	Burundian Office for the Protection of the Environment (BOPE) B.P: 56 Gitega et B.P. 2757 Bujumbura, +257 22403031
Burundi	13. Law No. 1/13 revising the Burundi Land Code	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	Objectives i) The law aims to establish a more secure and equitable land tenure system in Burundi, protecting the rights of landholders and reducing land-related conflicts. ii) The law promotes sustainable land management practices, encouraging efficient utilization of land resources and preventing degradation. iii) The law seeks to enhance agricultural productivity by facilitating access to land and promoting investment in the agricultural sector. iv) It aims to formalize customary land rights, recognizing the traditional land ownership systems that prevail in many parts of Burundi. v) The law intends to promote gender equality in land ownership and access, ensuring that women have secure land rights.
		Current Status	Published on 9 th August 201.
		Support for Agroecology	i) Law supports keeping the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits ii) Law seeks to keep protected areas are well connected and integrated into the wider landscape and seascape.
		Identified gaps/weaknesses	i) Despite recognizing gender equality, the law does not adequately address the cultural and social barriers that prevent women from fully exercising their land rights. ii) The law does not effectively address the needs of marginalized groups like returnees, internally displaced persons, and the marginalised community, who often struggle to access land.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
		Mitigation	i) Implement programs to raise awareness about women's land rights, provide legal support, and empower women to actively claim and manage their land. ii) Develop targeted programs to facilitate land access for vulnerable groups, including land redistribution initiatives and support for resettlement efforts.
		Responsible	The Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock in Burundi- MINEAGRIE +257 71509242 / +257 77789823, Avenue Triomphe / Q Musinzira, Gitega Bujumbura, Burundi
Burundi	14. Decree No. 100/129 of June 23, 2016 relating to the terms of application of the provisions of Chapter 3: "Certified land rights", of Law No. 1/13 of August 9, 2011 revising the land code in Burundi".	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	i) Facilitate Land Certification: The decree aims to establish the procedures and requirements for obtaining "certified land rights" as outlined in Chapter 3 of Law No. 1/13. ii) Streamline Land Registration: It seeks to streamline the process of registering land and issuing certified land titles, improving efficiency and accessibility. iii) Enhance Land Tenure Security: By facilitating land certification, the decree aims to strengthen land ownership rights and reduce land-related conflicts. iv) Promote Investment: Certified land titles can incentivize investment in agriculture and other land-based activities by providing clear ownership evidence. v) The decree contributes to the formalization of customary land rights, integrating them into the legal land tenure system.
		Current Status	Published on 23 June, 2016.
		Support for Agroecology	While the decree does not mention or address agro ecological issues, it seeks to facilitate and streamline the land registration process which may be a step in the right direction in ensuring women rights to own land are withheld and supported.
		Responsible	The Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock in Burundi- MINEAGRIE +257 71509242 / +257 77789823, Avenue Triomphe / Q Musinzira, Gitega Bujumbura, Burundi
Burundi	15. Law No 01/08/2018 relating to pesticide management in Burundi	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	i) The law aims to minimize the risks associated with pesticide use, safeguarding human health and the environment from potential harm. ii) It seeks to ensure the safe and responsible handling, storage, application, and disposal of pesticides. iii) The law encourages the adoption of alternative pest management practices to reduce reliance on chemical pesticides. iv) The law seeks to establish a comprehensive regulatory framework for pesticide management in Burundi. v) The law aims to raise awareness about the safe handling and use of pesticides among the public.
		Current Status	Published on May 18 2018.
		Support for Agroecology	i) The law protects human health and the environment ii) The law seeks to reduce pesticide dependence by adoption of alternative pest management practices

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
		Identified gaps/ weaknesses	i) The law does not adequately restrict the use and availability of highly hazardous pesticides, posing risks to human health and the environment. ii) The law lacks a robust system for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of pesticide management practices and adapting strategies as needed.
		Mitigation	i) The law should implement stricter regulations on the import, sale, and use of highly hazardous pesticides, prioritizing safer alternatives ii) The law should establish a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to track pesticide use trends, assess the effectiveness of regulations and awareness programs.
		Responsible	The Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock in Burundi- MINEAGRIE +257 71509242 / +257 77789823, Avenue Triomphe / Q Musinzira, Gitega Bujumbura, Burundi
Burundi	16. Law No. 1/010 establishing the Environmental Code of the Republic of Burundi	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	This law sets the fundamental rules intended to enable the management of the environment and its protection against all forms of degradation, in order to safeguard and promote the rational exploitation of natural resources, to fight against the different forms pollution and nuisances and thus improve the living conditions of humans, while respecting the balance of ecosystems. The specific objectives are: i) The law aims to establish a comprehensive framework for environmental protection in Burundi, addressing issues like pollution, deforestation, and biodiversity loss. ii) It promotes the principles of sustainable development, ensuring that economic activities are conducted in an environmentally responsible manner. iii) The law establishes mechanisms for environmental impact assessment, pollution control, and the management of natural resources. iv) It encourages public participation in environmental decision-making and promotes environmental awareness among citizens.
		Current Status	The law was published on 30 th June 2000
		Support for Agroecology	i) Environmental Protection and management ii) Sustainable Development iii) Public Participation in environmental decision making and awareness iv) Biodiversity values integration
		Identified gaps/ weaknesses	The law lacks strong and effective enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with environmental regulations.
		Mitigation	Development and implementation of effective enforcement measures, including penalties for non-compliance with environmental regulations.
		Responsible	Burundian Office for the Protection of the Environment (BOPE) B.P: 56 Gitega et B.P. 2757 Bujumbura,+257 22403031

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
Burundi	17. National Water Policy (PNEau) 2009	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	The Burundi National Water Policy (PNEau), adopted in 2009, outlines the fundamental principles and objectives for water resources management in Burundi. Here are the main aims of the PNEau: i) The overarching goal is to ensure sustainable water coverage for all users. This means providing access to clean and safe water sources while maintaining ecological balance. ii) The PNEau aims to achieve equitable access to water resources, ensuring that both urban and rural populations benefit from improved water supply and sanitation services. iii) It emphasizes integrated water management, considering social, economic, and environmental aspects. This includes promoting efficient water use, protecting water quality, and managing water-related risks. iv) The policy focuses on strengthening institutions responsible for water governance, regulation, and service delivery. This involves capacity building, coordination, and collaboration among relevant stakeholders. v) The PNEau recognizes the importance of climate resilience in water management. It aims to enhance adaptive measures to cope with climate change impacts on water availability and quality. vi) The policy encourages community participation in water management, emphasizing local ownership, awareness, and involvement in decision-making processes. vii) While primarily focused on water, the PNEau also addresses sanitation, aiming to improve hygiene practices, waste management, and sanitation facilities. Water Sector Framework: i) The Ministry of Water, Energy, and Mines (MWEM) formulates policies and handles administrative functions related to the WSS sector. ii) The Directorate General for Water and Energy (DGEE) oversees policy formulation and administration. iii) Actual service provision is carried out by the Water and Electric Authority (REGIDESO) and 34 Communal Water Authorities (RCEs). iv) REGIDESO manages catchment, treatment, and distribution of drinking water in urban or urbanizing centers, while RCEs supply rural areas. v) Sewerage and wastewater treatment services are provided by SETEMU (Services Techniques Municipaux),
		Current Status	i) The Burundi National Water Policy (PNEau), adopted in 2009
		Support for Agroecology	The Burundi National Water Policy (PNEau) aims to ensure sustainable water coverage for all users. While the policy doesn't focus on agroecology, it indirectly supports it through several key aspects: i) Water Resource Management: The PNEau emphasizes better management of watersheds to protect water sources and enhance water availability for domestic purposes. This approach aligns with agroecology principles; as sustainable agriculture relies on well-managed water resources.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
			ii) Sanitation Innovations: The Akasuga latrine, developed under the Sector Programme Water and Sanitation in Burundi (PROSECEAU), exemplifies how the PNEau indirectly supports agroecology. The Akasuga latrine is specifically designed for rural and peri-urban contexts in Burundi. It not only provides sanitation but also produces valuable fertilizer from human excrement. By promoting the use of Akasuga latrines, the PNEau contributes to soil enrichment and sustainable agricultural practices. iii) Low-Cost Solutions: The Akasuga latrine's low construction cost and ease of implementation make it accessible to households. Its environmental benefits extend beyond sanitation, positively impacting agriculture and the economy. This aligns with agroecological principles of affordability and resource efficiency
		Identified gaps/ weaknesses	i) While it addresses water supply and sanitation, it lacks a comprehensive approach to integrating water management with sustainable agricultural practices. ii) Despite the policy's existence, effective implementation remains a challenge. Insufficient resources, capacity, and coordination hinder its execution, especially in rural areas where agroecological practices are crucial. iii) The PNEau could benefit from greater involvement of local communities, including farmers and agroecologists. Their insights and practices could enhance water management and agroecological strategies.
		Mitigation	i) Advocacy for the policy guidelines to incorporate agroecology principles. This involves promoting sustainable farming practices, soil conservation, and efficient water use within the context of water management. ii) Strengthening the capacity of relevant institutions, including training extension workers and farmers, is essential. This would enhance knowledge about agroecology and improve its adoption. iii) Encourage community participation through awareness campaigns, workshops, and farmer field schools. Engaged communities can drive agroecological practices and contribute to water resource protection.
		Responsible	The Ministry of Water, Energy, and Mines (MWEM)
Burundi	18. National Sanitation Policy (PNA) 2013-2025.	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	Aim Access for all inhabitants of Burundi to a public sanitation service that is managed in a sustainable, efficient manner and respects the environment, human health, and fundamental human rights is improved: i) Purpose of the PNA - The PNA aims to address the sanitation challenges faced by Burundi by providing a comprehensive framework for improving sanitation services. It emphasizes the importance of sanitation for public health, environmental protection, and overall well-being. ii) Scope of the PNA - The policy covers various aspects of sanitation, including liquid and solid waste management, hygiene promotion, storm water drainage, and special waste handling. It applies to both urban and rural areas, recognizing the diverse needs of different communities.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
			Key Objectives i) Legal Framework Enhancement: The PNA seeks to strengthen the legal and regulatory framework related to sanitation. This involves updating outdated laws and ensuring effective implementation. ii) Equitable Access: The policy aims to ensure equitable access to sanitation services for all, with a focus on vulnerable populations such as the urban poor. iii) Improved Hygiene Practices: It promotes hygiene education and behaviour change to prevent diseases related to inadequate sanitation. iv) Sustainable Waste Management: The PNA emphasizes sustainable management of liquid and solid waste, including safe disposal and treatment. v) Capacity Building: It aims to enhance the capacity of institutions, local authorities, and communities to manage sanitation effectively. Roles and Responsibilities - The PNA defines the roles and responsibilities of various agencies at both national and local levels. This includes government bodies, NGOs, and private sector entities involved in sanitation. Policy Thrust i) Update core documents (policies, strategies, legal framework and sector statistical data) and revitalize the monitoring and coordination system by 2025. Eradicate open defecation by 2025. Achieve universal access to safe drinking water by 2030 and 90 per cent access to basic sanitation in urban areas and 80.5 per cent in rural
		Current Status	i) Policy adopted in 2013. ii) The government collaborates with development partners through the Water, Sanitation, and Environment Cluster (GSEAE) to implement these policies and enhance water and sanitation services. iii) The poor living in fast-growing areas on the outskirts of cities, rural settlements, and low-income regions suffer due to inadequate sanitation. iv) Sanitation encompasses community hygiene, sewage disposal, and waste management. v) Contaminated groundwater and surface water pose risks to human health and the environment. vi) Protecting groundwater resources and improving sanitation and sewage management are crucial for reducing health risks and enhancing living standards.
		Support for Agroecology	i) In collaboration with the University of Burundi and the Ministry of Public Health and AIDS Control, the GIZ Water and Sanitation Sector Program (ProSecEau) conducted research on the valorization of human excrement. This led to the development of the Akasuga latrine, specifically tailored to Burundi's rural and peri-urban context. The Akasuga latrine serves as a "fertilizer-producing latrine," approved by Burundi's relevant authorities. It offers low-cost construction, ease of use, and environmental benefits, contributing indirectly to agroecology

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
		Identified gaps/ weaknesses	i) The policy itself does not mention agroecology, but it indirectly supports it through several key mechanisms
		Mitigation	i) The implementation of the Akasuga latrine model promotes sustainable sanitation practices with indirect benefits for agroecology in Burundi
		Responsible	
Burundi	19. National Action Plan (NAP) 2022-2027	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	The government of Burundi has developed and implemented two prior National Action Plans: the first, for the period 2012-2016 and the second for the period 2017-2021, and has adopted a third NAP for the period 2022-2027. Objectives Burundi's third NAP has established a series of 10 objectives, all of which correspond to an axis. These are: i) Promote UNSCR 1325 and the implementation of the NAP 2022-2027. ii) Contribute to a mentality change and the promotion of positive masculinities and femininities. iii) Reinforce women's leadership at all levels. iv) Promote the level of representation of women and girls in the defense and security sectors. v) Improve the level of representation of women in the peace consolidation mechanisms vi) Improve and implement the legal framework regarding gender equality. vii) Increase access to local and quality care services and ensure free medical certificates viii) Reduce the arduousness of housework for women and girls. ix) Support the economic recovery of women and girls and their involvement in the development and implementation of community development programs and projects. x) Reinforce the coordination and the mobilization of funds for the implementation of the NAP 2022-2027 of UNSCR 1325. Key Highlights Burundi's NAP is structured around several axes: i) Promotion of UNSCR 1325 ii) Equality and equity in men and women's participation in decision-making positions and in peace-consolidation mechanisms iii) Reinforce the legal framework for the prevention of conflicts and violence against women and girls iv) Protection of rights and care for victims of sexual and gender-based violence v) Involvement of women and taking into account the needs of women and girls for the development and implementation of economic recovery programs vi) Coordination and mobilization of financing for the implementation of NAP 2022-2027.
		Current Status	i) Burundi's third National Action Plan was established for the period 2022-2027.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
			ii) The Burundian Action Plan establishes 99 activities to be implemented, all of which correspond to the established objectives and the expected results. Examples of these include: Organize training sessions for women, men, boys and girls on the promotion of positive masculinity and femininity.
		Support for Agroecology	i) Burundi National Action Plan recognizes the importance of agroecology in achieving sustainable development goals related to food security, environmental conservation, and poverty reduction. The NAP aims to enhance the productivity, resilience, and sustainability of the country's agricultural sector.
		Identified gaps/weaknesses	i) While there are successful agroecological initiatives at the local level, scaling up and replicating these practices across wider regions or landscapes can be challenging. ii) Agroecology faces challenges from climate change impacts, such as unpredictable weather patterns, pests, and diseases, as well as environmental degradation. iii) Agroecological products faces challenges in accessing markets due to limited infrastructure, low consumer awareness, and price premiums associated with certification. iv) Existing policies and institutions are not fully supporting agroecology, and the bureaucratic hurdles or conflicting regulations hinder its adoption. v) Smallholder farmers, especially those in remote or marginalized areas, lack access to resources such as land, finance, seeds, and technical assistance needed to adopt agroecological practices. vi) Many farmers may be unaware of the benefits of agroecology or lack the knowledge and skills to implement agroecological practices effectively.
		Mitigation	i) The NAP can support participatory approaches to scaling up agroecology, including farmer-to-farmer exchanges, peer learning networks, and partnerships between government, civil society, and private sector actors to disseminate best practices and lessons learned. ii) The NAP to foster integration of climate-smart practices into agroecological approaches, such as agroforestry, water management techniques, and soil conservation measures, to enhance resilience and adaption to climate change and mitigate environmental risks. iii) The NAP can promote the development of market infrastructure, such as storage facilities and transportation networks, promote consumer education and awareness campaigns about the benefits of agroecological products, and facilitate certification processes for smallholder farmers. iv) The government to review and revise policies to create an enabling environment for agroecology, including incentives for sustainable practices, streamlined regulations, and institutional reforms to integrate agroecology into agricultural development strategies. v) The government and development partners could establish programs to provide targeted support to marginalized farmers, including land tenure reforms, microfinance initiatives, seed banks, and extension services tailored to agroecology. vi) The NAP to foster investment in farmer education and extension services, including farmer field schools, demonstration plots, and knowledge-sharing platforms, to raise awareness and build the capacity of farmers in agroecology.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
		Responsible	Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights, and Gender
Burundi	20. Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategic Framework (GPRS F), adopted in 2018,	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	The Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategic Framework (GPRS F) in Burundi is a comprehensive plan aimed at addressing the challenges faced by the country. Key aims and objectives: i) Redistributive Growth: The GPRS F focuses on achieving redistributive growth, especially benefiting the poorest members of society, with particular emphasis on women and young people¹. This means that economic development should not only boost overall growth but also ensure that the benefits are shared more equitably among all segments of the population. ii) Job Creation: The GPRS F places growth and job creation at the centre of its future programs for poverty reduction. By promoting economic activities and employment opportunities, it aims to lift people out of poverty and enhance their well-being. iii) Social Cohesion: Given the breakdown of social cohesion in Burundi, the GPRS F seeks to strengthen community bonds and foster unity. Social stability is crucial for sustainable development and poverty reduction. iv) Access to Basic Services: The GPRS F acknowledges the progress made in terms of access to basic social services, such as health and education, under the first Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP I). However, it aims to further improve these services to enhance the quality of life for all citizens. v) Participatory Approach: The formulation of the GPRS F involves a participatory process, bringing together representatives from grassroots communities, civil society, Parliament, the Central Government, and development partners. This collaborative approach ensures a wide consensus and makes the GPRS F the sole reference framework for defining priorities and programs in international cooperation.
		Current Status	i) The Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper II (PRSP II) was adopted in 2018 ii) PRSP II places growth and job creation at the core of future poverty reduction programs. iii) Like its predecessor, PRSP II emerged from a participatory process involving various stakeholders. iv) It serves as the sole reference framework for defining priorities in governmental action and international cooperation with development partners. v) The focus is on redistributive growth, particularly benefiting the poorest members of society, including women and young people.
		Support for Agroecology	i) The first Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP I) led to progress in macroeconomic stability and basic social services but fell short of significantly reducing poverty. ii) It focusses on growth and poverty reduction indirectly supports sustainable agricultural practices. iii) By prioritizing job creation and economic development, the framework indirectly encourages investments in agriculture, including agroecological approaches. iv) Agroecology, which promotes ecological balance, biodiversity, and sustainable farming practices, can contribute to poverty reduction by enhancing food security, livelihoods, and environmental resilience.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
		Identified gaps/ weaknesses	i) Does not directly address agroecology.
		Mitigation	i) Its overarching goals align with sustainable development, which includes promoting environmentally friendly agricultural practices
		Responsible	
Burundi	21. National Agricultural Strategy (<i>Stratégie Agricole Nationale</i>) for 2018-2027	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	Strategic goals: ii) It focuses on five strategic goals: (1) develop growth-promoting sectors for the structural transformation of the economy; (2) develop human capital; (3) ensure sustainable management of the environment, mitigate climate change and improve land use planning (4) strengthen governance, security and the safeguard of national sovereignty and (5) mobilise resources, improve management public spending and develop regional and international cooperation. Overall Objective: iii) Contribute to improving sustainable food and nutritional security, increasing household incomes, generating foreign exchange, supplying raw materials for industry, and creating jobs in the agricultural transformation sector. Specific objectives: iv) Sustainable Increase in Agricultural, Livestock, and Fisheries Production - Promote sustainable practices to enhance crop, livestock, and fisheries production. - Improve soil fertility management, irrigation, and pest control. - Strengthen research and extension services to disseminate best practices. v) Value Addition to Agricultural, Pastoral, and Fisheries Products. - Encourage agro-processing and value chain development. - Enhance post-harvest handling, storage, and marketing. - Promote diversification and quality improvement of agricultural products. vi) Strengthening Institutional and Organizational Capacities. - Enhance coordination among relevant ministries, agencies, and stakeholders. - Strengthen capacity-building for agricultural institutions. - Improve governance, policy implementation, and monitoring. Policy thrust: i) The SAN 2018-2030 aims to operationalize the National Development Plan, the Vision 2025, and the Strategic Framework for Growth and Poverty Reduction II.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
			ii) It aligns with regional policies (such as COMESA, CEEAC, EAC, CEPGL) and considers the Malabo Declaration (June 2014) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
		Current Status	The SAN was published on January 11, 2018 and implementation is ongoing.
		Support for Agroecology	i) Sustainable Increase in Agricultural, Livestock, and Fishery Production: This axe aims to enhance production while considering ecological sustainability. ii) Value Addition to Agricultural, Pastoral, and Fishery Products: Promoting agroecological practices can lead to higher-quality products and better resource management. iii) Strengthening Institutional and Organizational Capacities: Building capacity ensures effective implementation of agroecological practices.
		Identified gaps/weaknesses	i) While the SAN acknowledges the importance of sustainable agriculture, it could benefit from a more explicit and comprehensive focus on agroecological practices. ii) The strategy does not fully tap into the wealth of indigenous and traditional knowledge related to agroecology. Integrating local practices and wisdom can enhance the effectiveness of sustainable agricultural approaches. iii) Inadequate Support for Smallholder Farmers who constitute a significant portion of Burundi's population. iv) Limited Research and Extension Services. A lack of robust research on agroecological methods and technologies hinders effective implementation. v) Market Access and Value Chain Constraints. vi) While the SAN acknowledges climate change, it could provide clearer guidelines on integrating agroecological practices as adaptive measures. vii) The strategy does not provide sufficient incentives or policy mechanisms to encourage farmers to transition to agroecological approaches. Economic incentives, such as subsidies or market access, are essential for promoting sustainable practices.
		Mitigation	i) The SAN should incorporate agroecology as a core component. This involves recognizing the value of diverse cropping systems, soil health, and ecological balance. ii) Prioritize training programs for farmers, extension agents, and policymakers on agroecological practices. This includes knowledge dissemination on organic farming, crop rotation, integrated pest management, and soil conservation. iii) Strengthen collaboration with research institutions to generate evidence-based insights on agroecology. Encourage participatory research and adaptive management approaches. iv) Incentivize agroecological practices. Examples include financial support for organic certification, market access for sustainable products, and tax breaks for eco-friendly farming practices.
		Responsible	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
Burundi	22. Climate change Policy 2013/ <i>Politique Nationale sur le Changement climatique 2013</i>	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	Main highlights i) The Policy focuses on sectors that are considered vulnerable to climate change impacts. These sectors are: Agriculture, Energy, Water resources, Infrastructure (including transport), Human Health, Forests and Woodlands and Waste Management. The pledge by Burundi is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 3.04% by 2030, with a potential increase to 12.61% with international support. Aims and objectives ii) The primary goal is to integrate climate change considerations into national development strategies to ensure the country's ability to withstand climate impacts. This is done by focusing on two main objectives namely. iii) Focussing on agriculture and measures to protect food security. iv) Protecting natural resources. v) Adaptation technologies for the human health sector. vi) The farmer organizations bring farmers together so they can participate in vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning, and getting training on climate impacts and resilience strategies.
		Current Status	i) The National Climate Change Policy and a Strategy was prepared in 2012, following the submission of its second National Communication on Climate Change in 2010. Towards the end of 2015, Burundi started the implementation of the project: "Third National Communication on Climate Change" with the technical and financial support of the Global Environment Facility through the United Nations Program for Environment, its Executing Agency. A progress report was made in 2019.
		Support for Agroecology	i) Promoting drought-resistant crops and sustainable farming practices. ii) Improving early warning systems for weather events. iii) Investing in water management and soil conservation. iv) Reforestation and conservation of forests to mitigate erosion and protect biodiversity. v) Sustainable management of water resources. vi) Community participation in vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning.
		Identified gaps/weaknesses	i) The policy does not have sufficient training programs for government officials, farmers, and communities limit their ability to understand and adopt climate-resilient practices. ii) The policy lacks an elaborate institutional framework dedicated to climate change coordination and action. iii) The policy lacks a robust framework to effectively monitor progress, evaluate the impact of implemented strategies, and adjust approaches as needed. iv) The policy does not adequately address the specific vulnerabilities and needs of women, who are disproportionately affected by climate change. v) The policy focus on mitigation strategies is relatively weak compared to adaptation efforts.
		Mitigation	i) Prioritizing Mitigation: While focusing on adaptation remains crucial, strengthening mitigation strategies is crucial for long-term climate action.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
			ii) Gender Integration: Developing gender-responsive climate change policies and programs that address the specific vulnerabilities and needs of women in agriculture and other sectors. iii) Developing a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to track progress, assess the impact of implemented strategies, and adjust approaches as needed.
		Responsible	MEEATU-Ministry of Water, Environment, Territorial Planning and Urban Planning Quartier Rohero. Avenue de la Cathédrale. Bujumbura. Bujumbura Mairie. Burundi +257 22224979, +257 22404277
Burundi	23. National Adaptation Plan of Action to Climate Change Dec 2023 (<i>Plan d'Action National d'Adaptation aux Changements Climatiques</i>)	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	i) The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) for Burundi, developed in response to climate change, outlines strategic actions to enhance the country's resilience. Strategic Direction ii) The NAP is guided by the strategic direction set by the National Platform for Climate Change (NPCC) and the National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change (NSAPCC). iii) It aims to provide an operational foundation for effective adaptation investment in Burundi across short-, medium-, and long-term horizons. Objectives iv) The NAP focuses on identifying and addressing gaps in adaptation measures. v) It aims to enhance Burundi's capacity to adapt to climate change impacts, particularly in vulnerable sectors¹. Highlights vi) The NAP emphasizes sector-specific adaptation actions. vii) It considers the Burundian economy's key sectors. The priority sectors include: a) Agriculture and Food Security: Enhancing agricultural practices to withstand climate variability and extreme events as well as promoting climate-resilient crop varieties and sustainable land management. b) Water Resources and Hygiene: Improving water availability and access, as well as strengthening water infrastructure and sanitation services. c) Health and Disaster Risk Reduction: Enhancing health systems to cope with climate-related health risks, and implementing disaster risk reduction measures. d) Biodiversity and Ecosystems: Conserving and restoring ecosystems, as well as protecting biodiversity and natural habitats. e) Infrastructure and Urban Planning: in developing climate-resilient infrastructure and integrating climate considerations into urban planning.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
			f) Energy and Renewable Resources: Promoting clean energy sources and enhancing energy efficiency and diversification.
		Current Status	The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) for Burundi was submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on December 4, 2023 ¹ . A record 11 countries submitted their NAPs in 2023, including Burundi, demonstrating global efforts to combat climate change.
		Support for Agroecology	i) The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) for Burundi, aims to enhance the country's resilience to climate change impacts. While the official document does not mention agroecology, its broader objectives and strategies can indirectly support sustainable agricultural practices in the following ways: ii) The NAP seeks to integrate climate change adaptation into overall development planning. By doing so, it indirectly promotes sustainable practices, including agroecology, which align with long-term development goals. iii) The NAP emphasizes well-analysed adaptation actions by focusing on robust analysis to guide policymakers toward climate-resilient approaches, including those related to agriculture and natural resource management.
		Identified gaps/weaknesses	The Burundi NAP does not directly mention agroecology.
		Mitigation	Its overarching goals and strategies indirectly support sustainable agricultural practices by fostering resilience and integrating climate adaptation into development planning.
		Responsible	MEEATU-Ministry of Water, Environment, Territorial Planning and Urban Planning Quartier Rohero. Avenue de la Cathédrale. Bujumbura. Bujumbura Mairie. Burundi +257 22224979 +257 22404277
Burundi	24. National Strategy for the Conservation of Protected Areas 2022-2032	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	The aim of this strategy is to ensure better conservation and sustainable use of resources biological protected areas of Burundi to meet the vital needs of local populations and contribute to the growth of the national economy. The major Objectives are: i) Strengthen the effectiveness of protected areas management; ii) Sustainably use the biodiversity of protected areas; iii) Strengthen the political, legislative and institutional frameworks of protected areas. iv) Integrate protected areas issues into key sectoral policies, programs and plans; v) Equitably share the benefits from the use of protected areas resources.
		Current Status	The strategy was published on February 1 2022

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
		Support for Agroecology	i) The plan identifies and addresses threats to protected areas, such as deforestation, poaching, and encroachment and offers solutions to combat the threat ii) The plan seeks to increase the extent of protected areas to conserve a wider range of biodiversity and ecosystems iii) The strategy encourages the involvement of local communities in protected area management and conservation efforts
		Identified gaps/weaknesses	i) The strategy does not adequately address limitations in enforcement capacity ii) The strategy has a weak monitoring and data collection framework that could make it difficult to track progress towards objectives iii) The strategy does not adequately explore strategies for integrating local livelihoods with conservation goals as it offers limited opportunities for sustainable resource use within protected areas.
		Mitigation	i) The plan should seek to provide training and professional development opportunities for park rangers, conservation personnel and other relevant staff. The plan could also consider involving the local community in conservation activities to supplement available resources. ii) The strategy should establish a robust monitoring framework with clear indicators to track progress towards objectives, assess the effectiveness of conservation interventions, and identify areas for improvement iii) The plan should develop and implement sustainable resource use programs within protected areas, allowing communities to benefit from non-timber forest products or ecotourism activities iv) The strategy could also consider negotiating community conservation agreements that define rights, responsibilities, and benefits for both local communities and protected area authorities.
		Responsible	Burundian Office for the Protection of the Environment (BOPE) B.P: 56 Gitega et B.P. 2757 Bujumbura,+257 22403031
Burundi	25. Strategie Nationale Et Plan D'action De Lutte Contre La Degradation Des Sols 2011-2016/National-strategy-and-action-plan-to-combat-soil-degradation-2011-2016	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	The National Strategy and Action Plan to Combat Soil Degradation (SN-LDS) in Burundi, spanning from 2011 to 2016, serves as a crucial instrument for integrating actions aimed at enhancing soil conservation. Aims and Objectives: i) The SN-LDS acts as a framework for operationalizing the political will expressed in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper II (PRSP II). It aligns with the goal of combating soil degradation. ii) The strategy aims to promote better soil management practices across various sectors, including agriculture and land use, land-use change, and forestry (LULUCF). iii) Addressing soil degradation, and contribute to building resilient infrastructure. iv) It supports efforts to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. v) The SN-LDS aligns with sustainable development goals, including achieving net-zero growth.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
			vi) The strategy also considers sustainable fishing practices. Highlights: vii) The SN-LDS identifies shortcomings and weaknesses related to soil degradation, emphasizing the need for improved protection and rational use of land. viii) It serves as an integrated approach to combat soil degradation, bringing together various actions for better soil conservation.
		Current Status	i) Plan was adopted in 2011 for the period 2012-2016.
		Support for Agroecology	i) The plan promotes the use of organic fertilizer and compost. ii) The plan supports the use of improved seeds and planting techniques. iii) The plan Encourages the use of agroforestry. iv) The plan promotes implementing soil and water conservation measures. v) The plan supports reforestation efforts. vi) The plan emphasizes the importance of community participation in the implementation of these projects.
		Identified gaps/ weaknesses	i) The plan lacks a clear outline of the institutional framework responsible for implementing and overseeing the action plan. ii) The strategy doesn't specify a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the effectiveness of implemented projects and adaption approaches as needed. iii) The strategy primarily focuses on addressing land degradation through soil conservation techniques but lacks a comprehensive approach to tackle underlying causes.
		Mitigation	i) The plan should develop and implement a robust monitoring and evaluation system to track progress, assess the impact of projects, and adjust approaches. ii) The plan should consider establishing a dedicated climate change ministry or agency to coordinating and overseeing the implementation of the action plan.
		Responsible	The Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock in Burundi- MINEAGRIE +257 71509242 / +257 77789823, Avenue Triomphe / Q Musinzira, Gitega Bujumbura, Burundi
Burundi	26. National plan to fight against drought,PNS-2020-2030	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	Burundi's National Drought Control Plan aims to be a tool to better face natural hazards and reduce the country's vulnerability to drought by taking into account the vulnerable groups including women and children. The overall objectives are to put in place systems for drought monitoring and early warning, assess the vulnerability and risks linked to the drought and implement measures to better respond to drought and limit its impacts. The specific objectives are: i) Identify the key factors of current and future vulnerability in different sectors and prioritize, mitigate and implement adaptation options.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
			ii) Propose structuring investments necessary to improve capacities for adaptation and resilience of communities especially women and children and other vulnerable groups in order to protect them against the impacts of drought. iii) Propose an appropriate political and institutional framework for effective drought management, access of women to decision-making bodies and economic governance mechanisms and politics including peace and security. iv) Early Warning Systems: The plan emphasizes the development and implementation of early warning systems to forecast droughts and trigger timely responses
		Current Status	Published on July 8, 2020
		Support for Agroecology	i) The plan aims to strengthen Burundi's preparedness for drought events by building resilience and mitigating their impacts on communities and livelihoods ii) The plan promotes sustainable water resource management practices to improve water availability during dry periods iii) The plan seeks to safeguard food security and protect livelihoods by supporting drought-resistant crops and income diversification strategies.
		Identified gaps/weaknesses	i) The plan does not address inadequate information on drought patterns, vulnerability assessments, and monitoring of plan implementation. ii) The PNS does not adequately address the sustainability of interventions, such as water management infrastructure, requiring on-going maintenance and adaptation
		Mitigation	i) The plan should consider incorporating investments in data collection on drought patterns, vulnerability assessments, and monitoring of interventions to inform evidence-based decision-making and adaptation strategies. ii) The plan should develop drought mitigation strategies that consider long-term climate change projections and incorporate climate-resilient practices
		Responsible	Burundian Office for the Protection of the Environment (BOPE) B.P: 56 Gitega et B.P. 2757 Bujumbura, +257 22403031
Burundi			
Burundi	27. The Burundi National Programme on Food Security 2009-2014	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	i) It promotes eight sub-programmes: Sustainable management of natural resources; Intensive production of food crops; Diversification of farming systems; Crop protection, processing and marketing; Nutrition; Early Warning and Strategic Reserve Establishment; Support for procurement of inputs, micro-finance, research, extension, and capacity building; and Implementation support ii) Was launched in January 2009.
Burundi		Aims, Objectives	i) The Burundi National Health Policy 2016-2025 aligns with international acts, declarations, and commitments related to health. It serves as a bridge between the Millennium Development Goals

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
	28. The Burundi National Health Policy 2016-2025	and Policy Thrust	(MDGs) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within the framework of the Global Sustainable Development Program (2016-2030).
		Current Status	i) Adopted in 2016. The Burundi National Health Policy 2016-2025 is a significant framework that guides health-related efforts in Burundi. It spans from 2016 to 2025 and serves as a continuation of the previous policy that covered the period from 2005 to 2015.
		Support for Agroecology	i) It doesn't directly address agroecology, but it support sustainable practices related to health and well-being.
		Responsible	i) Burundi Ministry of Public Health and the fight against AIDS (MSPLS).
Burundi	29. National Gender Policy of Burundi 2012-2025	Aims, Objectives and Policy Thrust	i) The National Gender Policy of Burundi 2012-2025 builds upon its predecessor from 2003, aiming to address the remnants of gender-based vulnerabilities and sensitize Burundian society. ii) The policy addresses gender disparities and vulnerabilities. iii) It tackles obstacles hindering gender equality. Main Objectives i) Facilitate the establishment of a socio-cultural, legal, economic, political and institutional environment conducive to the achievement of gender equality in Burundi. ii) Support the effective integration of gender into development interventions in all sectors.
Burundi	30. Strategic Nutrition Plan 2019-2023	Key Objectives and interventions	Strategic objectives: i) Improve the quality of outpatient and inpatient treatment for acute malnutrition. ii) To step up the fight against micronutrient deficiencies. iii) Promote good nutritional practices and measures to prevent malnutrition in all its forms. iv) Strengthen food safety. v) Strengthen good governance and leadership in nutrition at all levels.
		Support for Agroecology	While the plan primarily focuses on nutrition, it recognizes the interconnectedness of various sectors, including agriculture. The plan's key points related to agroecology within the context of the Burundi Strategic Nutrition Plan are as follows: i) The plan acknowledges that malnutrition is a multispectral issue. It highlights the importance of integrating nutrition-sensitive approaches into agriculture and food systems. Agroecology, which emphasizes sustainable and ecologically sound agricultural practices, plays a crucial role in improving food security and nutrition.

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
			ii) Agroecological practices promote crop diversification, agrobiodiversity, and the cultivation of nutrient-rich foods. By supporting diverse diets, agroecology contributes to addressing micronutrient deficiencies and improving overall nutrition. iii) Agroecology encourages local food production, reducing dependence on imported foods. This approach enhances access to fresh, seasonal, and culturally appropriate foods, which are essential for combating malnutrition. iv) Agroecological systems enhance the resilience of communities by promoting climate-smart practices. Sustainable agriculture contributes to food security even in challenging environmental conditions, ensuring better nutrition outcomes.
Burundi	31. Second generation Multi-Sectoral Strategic Plan for Food Security and Nutrition (PSMSAN II, 2019- 2023)	Key Objectives and interventions	Objectives i) To enhance food availability, accessibility, and utilization. It focuses on improving agricultural and livestock production to ensure a stable food supply. ii) The plan prioritizes actions to reduce all forms of malnutrition, including stunting, wasting, underweight, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight, and obesity. It emphasizes multi-sectoral collaboration across health, education, water, sanitation, hygiene, and social protection systems. iii) To strengthen food safety. Efforts are directed toward ensuring safe and nutritious food for all. This objective involves measures to improve food handling, storage, and distribution to prevent foodborne illnesses. iv) Strengthen Good Governance and Leadership in Nutrition: The plan emphasizes effective leadership, coordination, and governance at all levels to drive nutrition interventions. This includes advocating for increased budget allocations for nutrition programs. This platform comprises nine ministries, managed by a Permanent Executive Secretariat: i) The Ministry of the Interior, Community Development and Public Safety. ii) The Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning. iii) The Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender. iv) The Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research. v) The Ministry of Public Health and Fight against AIDS, vi) The Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock. vii) The Ministry of Hydraulics, Energy and Mines. viii) The Ministry responsible for Trade, and ix) The Ministry in charge of Communication.
		Support for Agroecology	The Second Generation Multi-Sectoral Strategic Plan for Food Security and Nutrition (PSMASAN II) in Burundi, spanning from 2019 to 2023, is a comprehensive initiative aimed at enhancing food security and nutrition across the country. The plan supports agroecology as follows:

Country	Name of the Policies, Bills, Plans and Regulations	Areas of Analysis	Key Agroecology Findings
			i) The PSMASAN II adopts an integrated multi-sectoral and multi-actor approach to address nutrition challenges. It recognizes that nutrition issues are multifaceted and require coordinated efforts across various sectors and stakeholders. ii) The Burundian government acknowledges the need for a holistic vision and complementary actions in favour of nutrition. By incorporating new strategies adapted to the current context, the plan places nutrition at the heart of development actions in Burundi. iii) As part of its strategic objectives, the PSMASAN II aims to double agricultural and livestock production. This commitment aligns with agroecological principles, emphasizing sustainable and diversified agricultural practices. iv) Another key goal is to reduce the rate of stunting in children under five by 10%. Agroecology plays a crucial role in achieving this objective by promoting nutrient-rich crops, soil health, and sustainable farming methods

Annex II: List of Organisations Interviewed

1. **League of Peasant Women's Organizations of Congo (LOFEPACO).** LOFEPACO is a non-governmental organization (NGO) based in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It focuses on advocating for the rights and empowerment of peasant women in the country. LOFEPACO works on various issues including access to land, women's rights, education, healthcare, and economic empowerment for rural women. Founded in 1994, LOFEPACO has been actively involved in grassroots organizing, awareness-raising campaigns, and lobbying efforts to address the challenges faced by peasant women in Congo. The organization aims to improve the socio-economic conditions of rural women and promote gender equality in Congolese society.
2. **Coopérative Centrale du Nord-Kivu (COOCENKI).** COOCENKI is a cooperative established in 1980 and officially recognized in 1987. Its mission is to support agricultural cooperatives in the North Kivu province of the Democratic Republic of Congo. COOCENKI brings together primary agricultural cooperatives in North Kivu, representing small farmers in the region. The organization focuses on commercializing agricultural products, providing training and support to its members, and advocating for their interests.
3. **Le Syndicat de Défense des Intérêts Paysans (SYDP).** SYDIP, is a Congolese peasant farmers' union created in 1993 and registered under Order No. 038 of 04/09/1993 of the Ministry of Labour, Manpower and Social Welfare as well as the Order of the Minister of Justice and Keeper of the Seals No. 663/CAB/MIN/J/2004 of the National Ministry of Justice granting SYDIP legal personality as a non-profit association.
4. **La Confédération des Associations des Producteurs Agricoles pour le Développement (CAPAD).** CAPAD, is a peasant organization composed of family farmers (of which 64% are women) cultivating food, fruit, and vegetable crops, as well as engaging in both small and large livestock farming. These farmers are organized into agricultural cooperatives located in municipalities across provinces in Burundi.
5. **Coordination Nationale des Organisations des Producteurs Agricoles du Congo (CONAPAC).** CONAPAC serves as a unifying platform for agricultural producer organizations in Congo, working to promote their interests, enhance their capacities, and contribute to the sustainable development of the agricultural sector.

Annex III: Interview Guide

REF: AGROECOLOGY AND RELATED POLICY ANALYSIS IN CONGO AND BURUNDI

Introduction

We are reaching out to you as part of our ongoing collaboration with the Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF). Projects Ontime Consulting has been contracted by EAFF to conduct an analysis of Agroecology and related policies in East Africa specifically for Congo and Burundi. The primary objective of this initiative is to identify gaps and weaknesses within existing agroecology and related policies to facilitate advocacy efforts aimed at their improvement.

As stakeholders deeply engaged in agricultural development and advocacy, your insights are invaluable to us. Your participation in this interview will contribute significantly to the successful execution of this exercise. Through your responses, we aim to gain a comprehensive understanding of the current landscape of agroecological policies and practices in Burundi and Congo.

The deliverables of this assignment include the development of a database and a comprehensive review report. Your input will play a crucial role in ensuring the accuracy and effectiveness of our analysis. We are committed to leveraging this information to drive meaningful change and advancement of agroecology within the region.

We kindly request your support and cooperation in participating in this interview and providing your valuable responses to the following questions. Your expertise and perspectives will greatly enhance the success of our endeavour. Thank you for your time and dedication to this important cause.

Dr Josiah Obare, PhD | Lead Consultant

Guiding interview questions

These questions aim to gather insights from farmers' federations and associations regarding their perspectives and experiences related to agroecology and policy advocacy in Congo and Burundi.

1. Organizational Background and Objectives

- i. Overview of your federation/association, its mission, and objectives?
- ii. What specific goals or initiatives do you have related to promoting sustainable agriculture and agroecology?
- iii. How does your organization engage with farmers and advocate for their interests?
- iv. Who are the other actors in agroecology in your country?

2. Involvement in Policy Advocacy

- i. What are the existing AE policies, strategies, plan, laws, bills, etc on agroecology in your country? Who is the custodian of each of these documents? And what is their status? (kindly organise to share the soft copies)
- ii. Could you describe your organization's role in advocating for agricultural policies at the national and regional levels?
- iii. Have you been involved in discussions or initiatives related to agroecological policies in East Africa? Which ones are they?
- iv. What challenges have you encountered in advocating for policies that support agroecology, and how have you addressed them?

3. Perceptions of Agroecology

- i. In your opinion, what are the main advantages of promoting agroecological practices over conventional farming methods? /
How do you think agroecology can contribute to addressing key challenges faced by smallholder farmers in the region?

4. Collaboration and Partnerships

- i. Have you collaborated with other organizations or stakeholders to promote agroecology and influence policy development?
- ii. What types of partnerships do you think are necessary to advance the agroecology agenda in East Africa (Congo, Burundi)?
- iii. How do you engage with government agencies, research institutions, and civil society organizations on matters related to agricultural policies and practices?

5. Knowledge and Capacity Building

- i. How does your organization support farmers in adopting agroecological practices and techniques?
- ii. Are there any specific training programs or capacity-building initiatives you offer to enhance farmers' understanding of agroecology?
- iii. What resources or support do you need to further promote agroecology among your members and the wider farming community?

6. Challenges and Opportunities

- i. What are the main challenges hindering the adoption of agroecological practices among farmers in East Africa?
- ii. Are there any existing policies or regulations that either support or impede the implementation of agroecology?
- iii. In your view, what opportunities exist for scaling up agroecological approaches and influencing policy changes in the region?

7. Impact Assessment:

- i. How do you measure the effectiveness of your advocacy efforts in promoting agroecological policies and practices? Can you share any success stories or examples of how agroecology has positively impacted farmers in your network?
- ii. What indicators or benchmarks do you use to assess the impact of agroecology on farmers' livelihoods and the environment?

8. Future Priorities and Strategies

- i. What are your organization's priorities and strategies for advancing agroecology in the coming years?
- ii. How do you plan to leverage partnerships and resources to achieve your goals related to agroecology?
- iii. Is there anything else you would like to add regarding your organization's involvement in agroecology and policy advocacy efforts?

Many thanks.

-END-