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How to bridge the Gaps of ESIA Post Approval for Environmental Performance?

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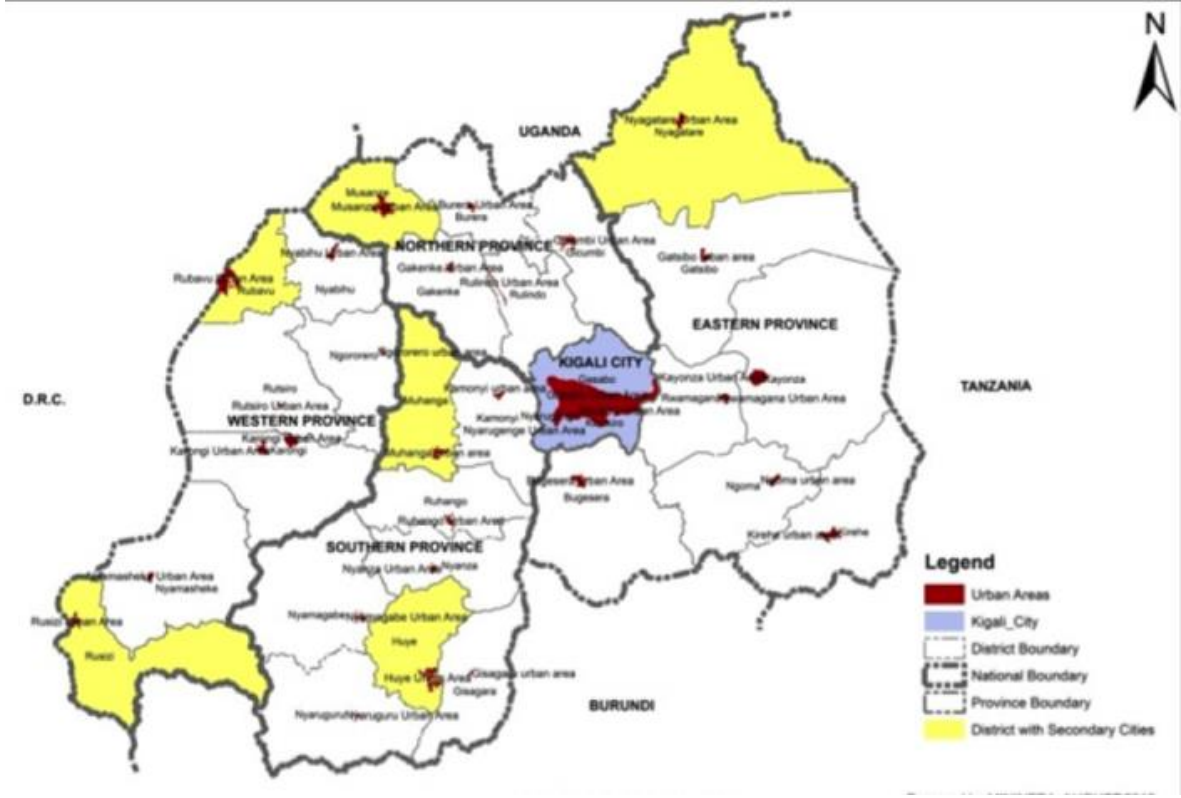
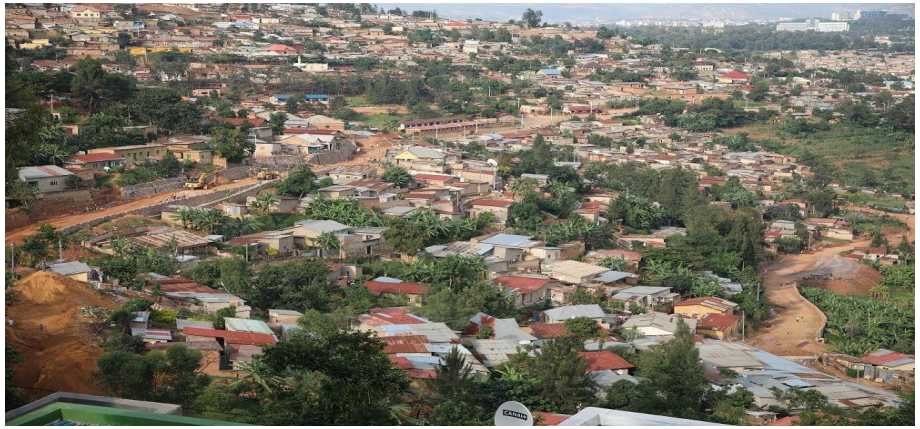
Outline

- Overview of RUDP and its main investments: Roads and Drains
- RUDP-related negative impacts and relationship with ESIA
- ESIA as a legal requirement and its processes in Rwanda
- Gaps/challenges of ESIA post Approval and way forward
- Conclusion
- Questions and Answer session

Rwanda Urban Development Project (RUDP): Overview

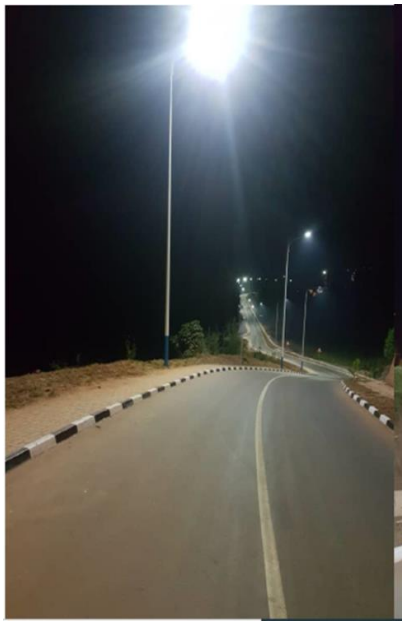
- **Informal settlement upgrading and accelerating the urbanization process in the City of Kigali and Six Secondary Cities of Rwanda**
  - more than 79 unplanned settlement sites are located in the city of Kigali and six secondary cities of Rwanda
  - approximately 66% and 90% of the respective city residents live in informal settlements without required basic infrastructures
  - At least 20% of the informal settlements are removed and urbanization growth rate of 35% is achieved by the year 2024 against 18% as of today
- **RUDP**
  - RUDP is a 10 years project implemented by the GoR under financial support of the World Bank since 2015
  - PDO-Improve access to basic services, enhance resilience and strengthen integrated urban planning and management in the City of Kigali and the six secondary cities of Rwanda
- **Investments** include roads construction and rehabilitation, street lightning, pedestrian walkways and drainage construction





- **Indicators to be used to measure progress against the PDO**

  - Number of informal settlements upgraded
  - People provided with improved urban living conditions
  - People in urban areas with access to all-season roads within a 500 m
  - People provided with access to markets, jobs and other social services
  - Cities with approved detailed area plans, incorporating the principles of sustainability



RUDP-related negative impacts and ESIA

- Roads and Drains construction under RUDP aims at improving the living conditions of urban dwellers and informal settlements upgrading
- However, besides positive impacts, any major development project also brings concerns about environmental harm and negative social impacts
- **Potential impacts include:**

- Disruption of normal life in populated areas: damages and relocation of public services/utilities (roads, water services, electricity, bus stations, access to schools, homes, etc. in a period of time unknown)
- Community resettlement, spread of communicable disease and economic inequality
- Waste generated at construction sites which can pollute land and water bodies
- cutting of trees and damage to vegetation
- Road accidents, noise and air pollution among others.

- **Hence, all those negative impacts and many others need to be mitigated**
- **An ESIA study was deemed necessary prior to the civil works commencement**

ESIA legal process and How it helps addressing the problems

ESIA as a requirement

- In many countries, in-depth ESIA with appropriate mitigation measures and ESMP is a required environmental process before the implementation of infrastructure projects such as roads and drains
- The 2018 Environmental law and 2019 ministerial order
- ESIA approval and clearance by the RDB as per the current national environmental legislation
- ESIA approval conditions

ESIA Process in Rwanda

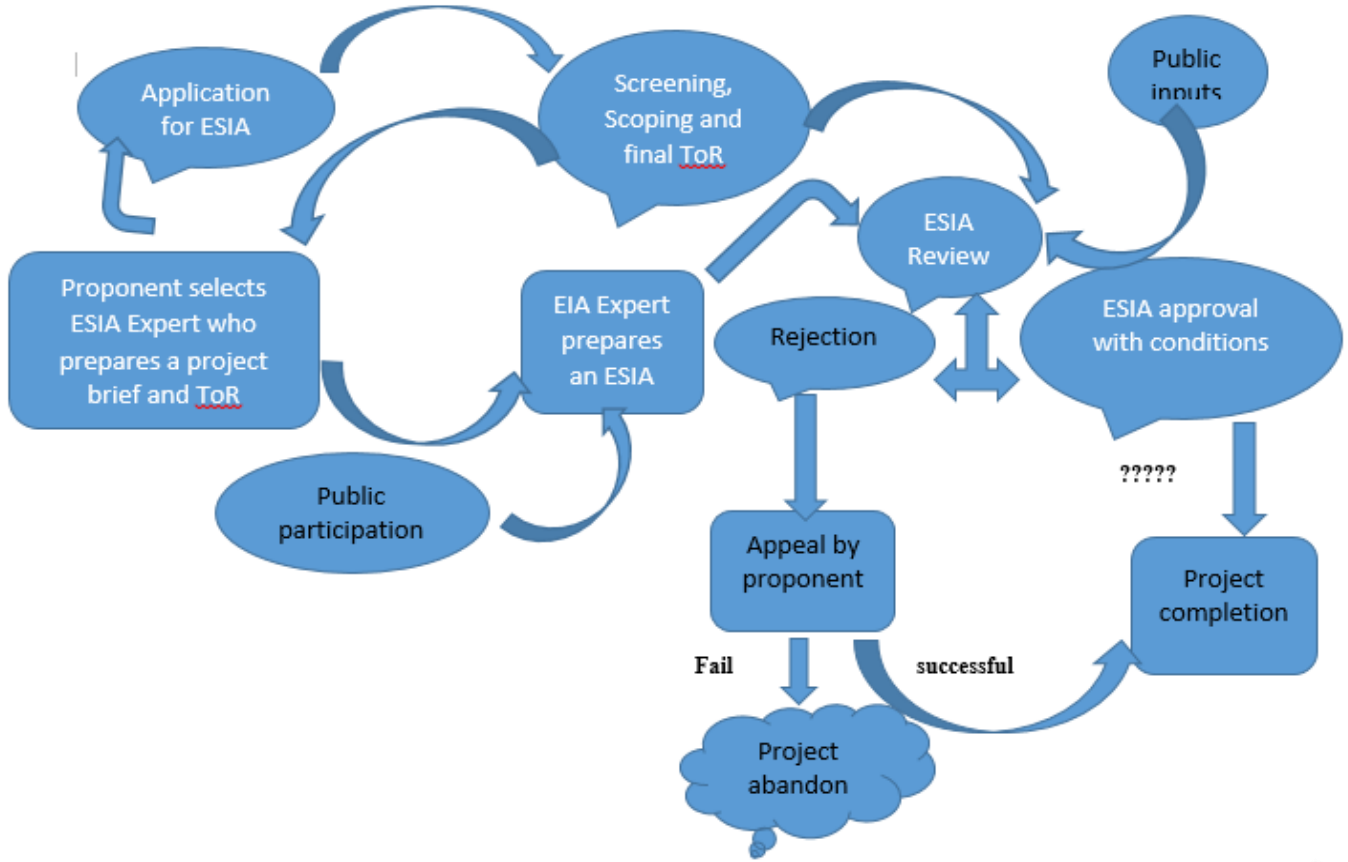


Fig.1: ESIA processes in Rwanda as per the 2018 environmental law and 2019 ministerial order

Proposed enabling factors for environmental compliance/performance

Gaps/Challenge	Proposed solution
ESIA-Generic impacts and mitigation measures	Impacts scrutiny and mitigation measures to be site-specific
Procurement and tendering process	- Clarity on ESTCs, ESMP, code of conduct and staffing -submit a past environmental compliance certificate (ECC)
Contract management and compliance enforcement	-Close follow-up on contractual obligations and their fulfilment -Conduct regular assessments and report on compliance/non-compliance for timely decision-making - Payment to be effected based on proof of environmental and social performance and costs spent -Issue the ECC upon project completion as incentive -Impose fining and Contract termination in case of non-compliance as per established laws
Monitoring, supervision, evaluation and reporting	-Development of compliance measurement framework including specific metrics, checklist and template of environmental and social issues/parameters - Use of technological tools: Geo-Enabling initiative for Monitoring and Supervision (GEMS), web based Environmental Screening Tool and drones
Staffing	-Hiring required project staffs including ESSSs to be permanently based on the project sites
Environmental audit	-Independent environmental auditor to undertake a review of the project compliance and environmental audit reports
Projects requirements and national environmental procedures	-Organize regular workshop meetings/training with contractors, project beneficiaries, and local communities
Project stakeholders involvement and consultations	-Empowering the communities verifiers and affected people -Include the stakeholders in impacts management during the project implementation and post-implementation - Regular consultations open through existing communication channels: meetings, radio and TV shows
Archiving and filing	-Develop a digital archiving system for filing the project documentation

Conclusion

- Gaps hindering the management of the project-related impacts and compliance and enforcement between ESIA approval and project completion have been documented with reference to RUDP and some literature
- Placing value on compliance benefits and devote required costs to deliver a reputational value of the organization and advance positive environmental and social outcomes
- Experience and lessons learned from RUDP can be used as valuable insights for future implementation of similar projects
- Further studies are still required to explore in –depth the extent of ESMPs implementation to measure the project environmental and social performance during the project life cycle

Thank you

Let's continue the conversation!

Post questions and comments via chat in the IAIA21 platform.

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