

Managing access to GR's in national and regional genebanks

Experiences from RWANDA

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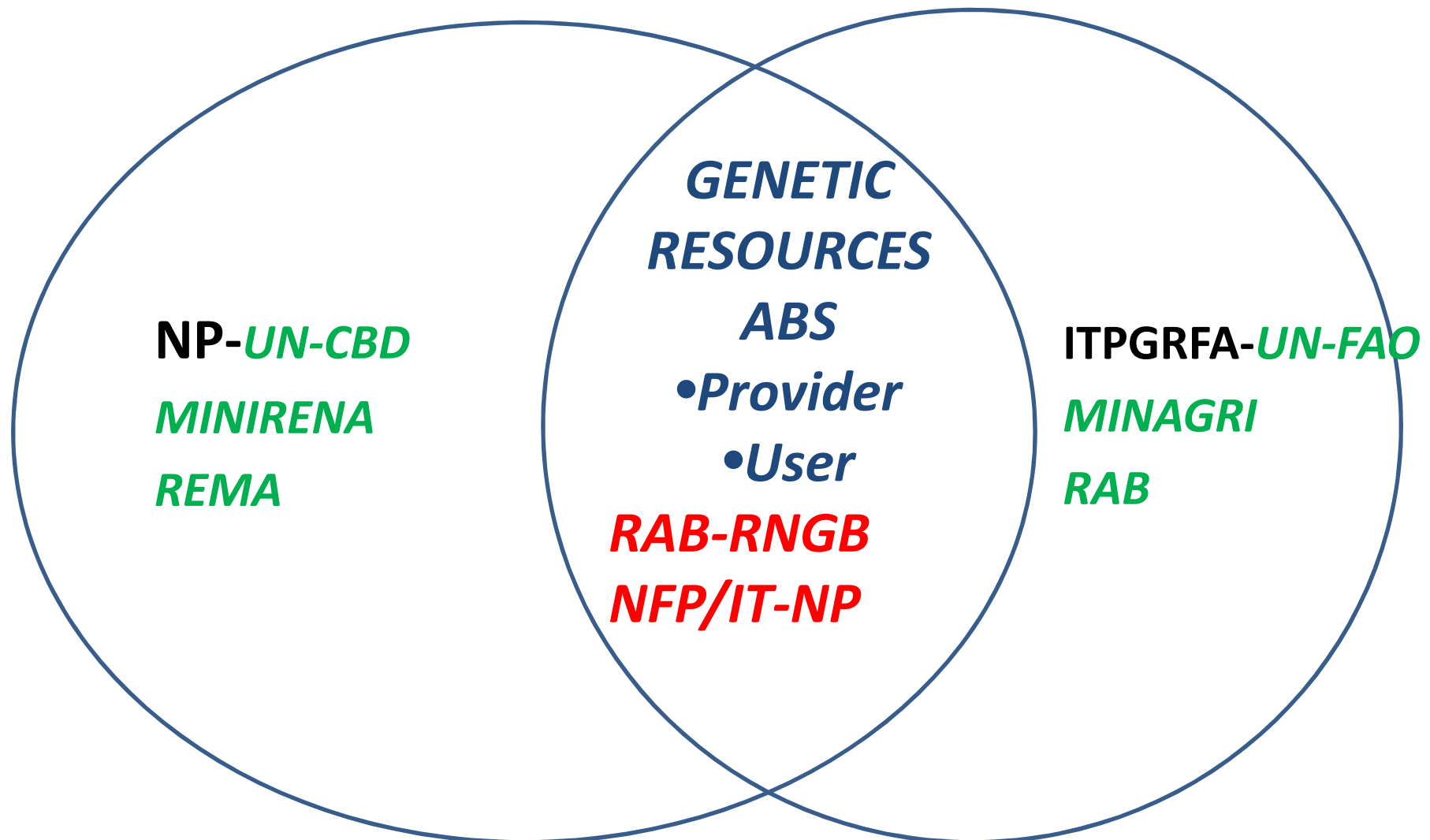
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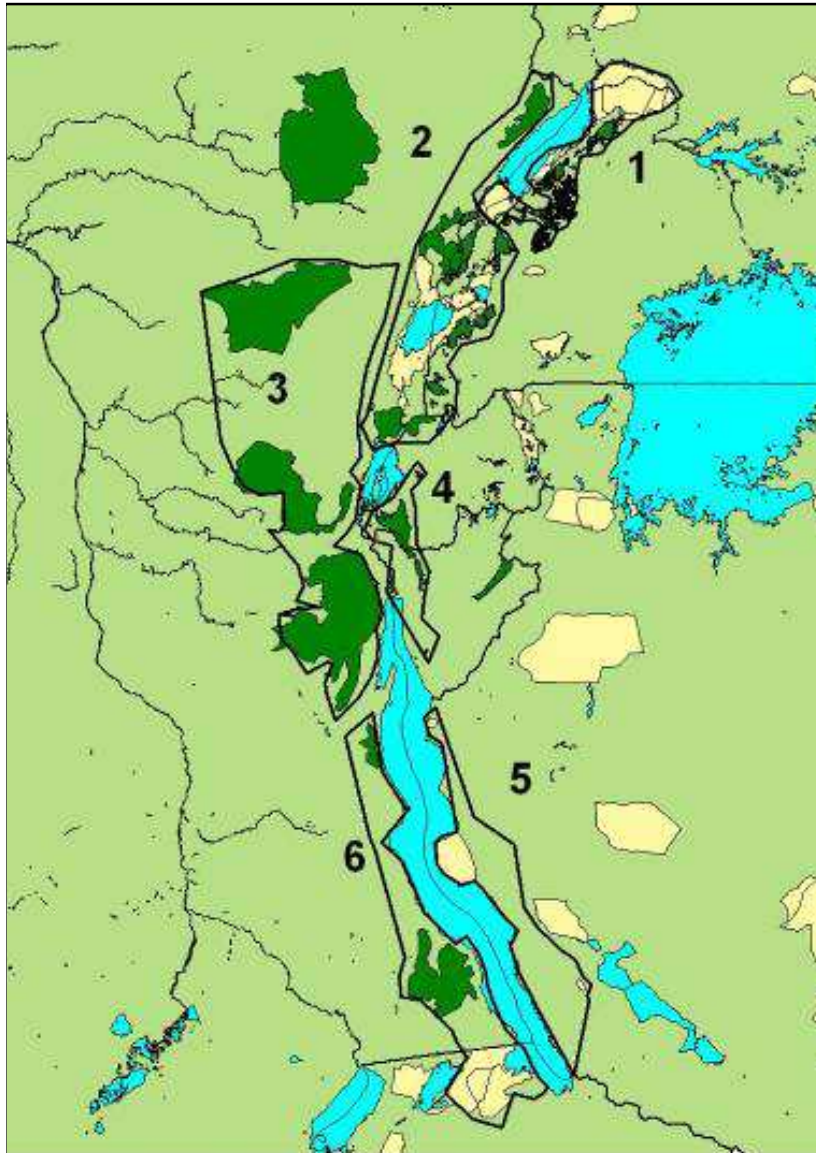
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NP vs. IT



RWANDA BIODIVERSITY RICHNESS

As part of the **Albertine Rift Region**



	Species richness	Endemic species	Threatened species
Mammals	402	34	35
Birds	1,061	41	25
Reptiles	175	16	2
Butterflies	118	34	16
Amphibians		117	
Fishes		366+	
Plants	5.793	567	40

RWANDA

Biodiversity richness

Pattern	Rwanda
P.A cover	10,1% of country surface area
Plant (vascular) spp	2 150-3000
Mammals spp	151 (11Threatened)
Primates	16
Bird spp	670 (9 Threatened)
Amphibians/reptiles spp	87

RWANDA: Threatened spp

Famous mountain gorillas



RWANDA

High ecosystem variability

- **Natural ecosystems**
 - **Forests,**
 - **Savannas,**
 - **Wetlands,**
- **Households (Kitchen garden)**
- **Forested area and agro-ecosystems.**

RATIFICATIONS BY RWANDA

ITPGRFA: February 2011

NP: March 2012

Offer window of opportunity for moving forward its policy on biodiversity to harness its conservation and sustainable use aiming at supporting sustainable economic development and improved livelihoods (highly dependent on NR).

Implementation opportunities/incentives:

(i) Conservation

(ii) Sustainable use

*(iii) Traditional/cultural
knowledge*

(iv) Benefit sharing, etc.





IMPLEMENTATION IN RWANDA

- **Supporting legislation and institutions** in place (Biodiversity law, Forestry law, IP law, Ministerial Order on protected species, REMA, RNRA, RAB...) or in the pipeline (Bioprospection framework, Centre of Excellence on Biodiversity..,)
- **CBD/NP Steering Committee** in place
- **IT and NP Focal Point** nominated in RAB
- **Taskforce NP & ITPGRFA (ISAR)**: meant to create synergies between the two instruments.
- **National Genebank Strategy** has been developed

WAY FORWARD

- **Development of GR policy and legislation include:**
 - ✓ Developing national legislation/regulation/tools (PIC;MAT) and other relevant policy/strategy frameworks:
 - ✓ National Strategy on Plant Genetic Resources under ITPGRFA
 - ✓ Rwanda National Genebank Strategy

WAY FORWARD

- **Development of GR policy and legislation include:**
 - ✓ Identifying relevant stakeholders and tailored trainings according to specific needs
 - ✓ Resource mobilization (link with FONERWA)
 - ✓ Establishing of NCA helping in *negotiations between holders of TK and users*
- **Participation in transboundary cooperation strategy/mechanisms/agreements in relation to GR and TK (transboundary PA)**

WAY FORWARD

- **Capacity building**
 - ✓ Awareness raising of PIC, MAT, SMTA
 - ✓ Use of the SMTA; negotiation skills MAT
 - ✓ Legal, institutional and policy framework
 - ✓ Local communities and farmers: community genebanks, involvement in RNGB collections
 - ✓ Valuation of genetic resource
 - ✓ Characterisation of genetic resources
 - ✓ Nagoya Protocol and ITPGRFA (Mutual supportiveness)

Questions

- ***TASKFORCE***
- ***STEERING COMMITTEE***
- ***RNGB***
- ***GR MC-NG & PD***
- ***NATIONAL COORDINATION***

Rwanda National Genebank

Operational plan



RNGB: Operational plan document

- Preparation (GR Taskforce)
- Describes
 - ✓ context, importance of the genebank
 - ✓ proposed mandate, objectives, staffing
 - ✓ first steps for operationalization



RNGB: Introduction

- Genetic resources are basis of existence
- Conservation, sustainable use and sharing of benefits of GR of great importance
- Building at Rubona
- Need for full operationalization
- **High priority:** national development and international agreements



RNGB: Scope

- Type of activities
 - ✓ *ex-situ* strategies in the genebank to manage collections
 - ✓ in parallel with on-field collection management of genetic resources.
 - ✓ *in-situ* conservation in general

RNGB: Scope (2)

- Type of genetic resources
 - ✓ On the basis of criteria: food security, cultural and economic values, endemic species, threats, etc
 - ✓ Focus of attention on specific, meaningful collection, possibly not easily found elsewhere
 - ✓ Focus on 1. plants, 2. animals, 3. trees, 4. microbials, in four departments.

RNGB: Institutional framework (1)

- MINAGRI delegated execution of the Rwanda National Genebank to RAB
- RAB host, RNGB to report to DG RAB.
- Liaise with other programs, institutions, target groups - national and international
- Later evolve into standalone Centre.

RNGB: Instl framework (2)

- National Steering Committee/Taskforce to be put in place for overseeing overall mandate
- Membership to comprise institutions and organizations with the appropriate knowledge about genetic resources.
- Chair, Director RNGB, RAB (Nat. focal point ABS + breeder or legal adviser), REMA, MINAGRI, RNRA, RDB, MINICOM, NUR, IRST, IMBARAGA

RNGB: Actions to take

- Appoint National Steering Ctee/Taskforce
- Set up collection in collaboration with research programmes (current research could engage in genebank set up activities)
- Raise awareness amongst stakeholders and international community;





RNGB: Discussion, suggestions, questions

- The National Genebank will combine efforts for NP and ITPGRFA implementation. Who should be the main decision maker for giving access? What level is practicable and realistic?
- How can the RNGB collaborate with / involve community genebank: what are good practices?
- Ratification & interface. What should be done: harmonization of existing laws with NP and IT, or something completely new?

RNGB: Discussion, suggestions, questions

- **RNGB as pilot case, how to raise funds for full operationalization? How far should radiate?**
- **Different ministries (Agriculture, Environment, Education, Commerce, ...) implementing the two instruments how best can be the National coordination?**



THANK YOU

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