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POST GRADUATE PROGRAMME

# COOPERA(C)TION

## KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS FOR SUSTAINABLE CITIES IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH



## NYUMA Y' UMUDUGUDU: TUBAKE Y'UBUTAHA

### BEYOND THE VILLAGE: BUILDING A NETWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Strategic proposal for agricultural and touristic development of Musha  
**Rwanda**

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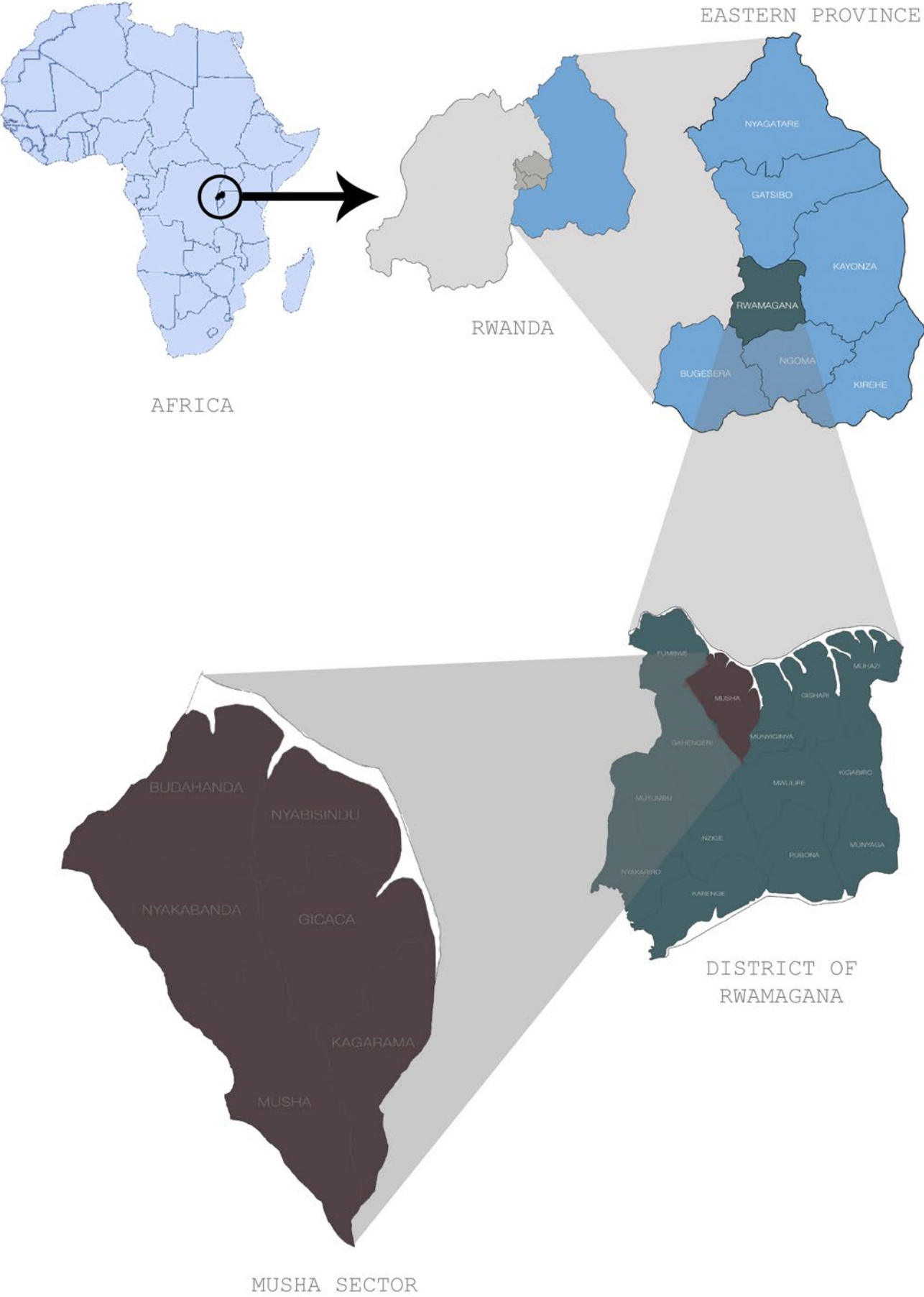
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AREA

Musha sector, district of Rwamagana, Eastern Provinces of the Republic of Rwanda



## DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSE:

### *Preamble*

Africa is changing its image by using urban planning to promote futuristic sustainable cities and bridge the gap between Westernize countries and the Sub Saharan continent. The theme of urban planning in Africa is therefore of fundamental interest and is an opportunity to rethink the ways in which planning can be a tool for development. This project was born as a close examination of the analysis made in my Master's final discussion, titled "Kigali – Rwamagana. A strategic proposal for local development of eastern corridor". This research analyzed many issues related to development (management and property of land, development of economic sectors, etc..) focusing on the eastern periurban area of Kigali, capital of Rwanda, and tries, through a work of synthesis, to merge all the different information in order to consider which is a possible scenario of development for that lands. The following project start from the issues previously faced, for proposing the development of a very narrow area, located on the hills of Musha, one of the fourteen sectors of the district of Rwamagana, a big district of the Eastern Provinces of Rwanda.

### *Background*

#### *1. The territorial context: Rwanda and the district of Rwamagana*

The sector of Musha is located in potentially very rich area: it's located in the district of Rwamagana, in the eastern province of the country, next to the city of Kigali, the capital of Rwanda, and it's inside a corridor of touristic and agricultural development planned by rwandan government. The Rwandan government is very proactive in drafting plans for the country's development, which, following the indications written in 2000 in the "Rwanda Vision 2020" intend to come out completely from poverty to becoming the new "Singapore of Africa". Planning efforts focus especially in the capital, and are explicated in the "Kigali Master Plan 2013", very rich in indications and interventions in order to make the capital a true African paradise. The guiding principle of the Master Plan is the establishment of a true Rwandan identity based on equality of all citizens (to drive out the ghosts of ethnic hatred that led to the genocide of twenty years ago) and on development of the sector which is the basis of the Rwandan economy: agriculture.

However, the agricultural sector will not be developed in Kigali, in the city, but in the provinces of the country. Rwamagana, the district where the sector analyzed is located, is indicated as a potential district for agricultural and tourist development. Rwamagana district has a population of 310,238 inhabitants, with a density of 455 ab / km<sup>2</sup> and growth of the population of 3.5%. The subsoil is very rich in minerals, including coltan, cassiterite, gold and pond: there are already some extraction cooperatives but the tools and techniques used are still primitive, without considering the fragile nature of the soil that has a high risk of erosion. The territory is very rich in water resources, there are many rivers like Akagera, Sumo and Nyabarongo which are those larger in size; there are then two large lakes that cross the whole area: the lake Muhazi to the north and Lake Mugesera to the south. Thanks to the significant presence of water and considering that the ground is mostly hilly, there are numerous wet and marshy areas, which could be reclaimed for the cultivation of rice and papyrus, as indicated in the district's plans. Also groundwater is present in large quantities, but aqueducts are few and access to drinking water for all is still a mirage.

All these resources indicate, as anticipated, high potential for the growth of the tourism sector, both for the presence of lakes and rivers, and thanks to the proximity to the city of Kigali and the airport. Rwamagana is placed right on the road that leads from Kigali to the Akagera National Park and then to the northern parks of Tanzania. The same local government ministry, the Rwanda Local Development Support Fund, pointed out in District Development Plan (DDP) of Rwamagana the possibility of developing the tourist industry.

Today, however, this area is still scarcely equipped with infrastructure for the reception of tourists and tourists schools that can train specialized personnel.

The district is also poorly developed from an infrastructure point of view: there is only one paved road that crosses it and sits in the town of Kayonza (Kayonza district), continuing to north to Uganda and to south east to Tanzania. This road is, among other things, one of the links between national capitals of the East African Community (EAC), and is called “Central Corridor”: its implementation would allow the development of commercial links between the ports of Mombasa in Kenya and Dar es Salaam in Tanzania and the capital markets of the EAC (Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi, Uganda and Rwanda).

Rwamagana, in addition to the tourist potential, also has very high potential for development of the agribusiness sector: the soil is very fertile and suitable for producing many varieties of food crops, both for local consumption and for export.

There are currently 64 agricultural cooperatives, yet still using traditional and scarcely mechanized production methods. There are then 36 breeders’ cooperatives, supported by some national programs such as the “Girinka Program”<sup>1</sup> and the construction of new “Milk Collection Centers” to preserve milk, which then distributed throughout the district.

Close proximity to the city of Kigali is both potential and a threat to all areas of the district: a development strategy must necessarily envisage turning this district into a new attractive center, to prevent its progressive transformation into an urban periphery, a trusted consequence considered the very high growth of the city of Kigali scheduled for the next twenty years. The high presence of young people can be considered a potential to train specialized technical personnel who can work in the sectors of development envisaged by the sector (agribusiness and tourism) without fleeing to the city in search of a job that is difficult to find.

Actually the district mainly lives from subsistence agriculture, the amount of production isn’t high due to the small size of the land (the result of wrong land management and wrong land management policies) as well as quality, still very poor especially because the technologies of production are still traditional. Moreover, market access is very difficult for small farmers, for some major reasons: they can not afford to rent trucks for transporting goods, and they can’t do it by themselves because of both the market’s distances and the inability of some unpaved roads that become rivers of mud during the rainy seasons.

## 2. Musha sector

Musha area is located in this district, in the northwestern area, to north is wet by the water of the lake Muhazi and to south are bounded by the only paved main road that crosses the entire district: it is then located in a very interesting area of development and rich in potential.

This area extends over 45 km<sup>2</sup>, has 21.291 inhabitants, with a density of 473.1 ab / km<sup>2</sup> and a population change in ten years around 54.1%.

The area is crossed by the climatic zone called “Eastern Plateau Mixed Agricultural Zone”<sup>2</sup>, so the area is fairly rainy (between 900mm and 1200mm per year) and does not suffer from droughts. Growth crops produced in this area are bananas, coffee, rice, cassava and corn. Despite here the poor households cultivate small land plots (average size ranging from 0.8 hectares, larger than the national average of 0.6 hectares), some of the wealthiest farmers have large areas where there are banana plantations and where cattle can graze. Typically small growers produce goods for their own consumption and work for some hours in the richest land. Problems and difficulties related to agricultural and tourism development are shared with the district, and these are compounded by the delicate problem of land ownership.

The traditional land ownership systems were two: *ubukonde*<sup>3</sup> and *isambu-igikingi*<sup>4</sup>, both based on the

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<sup>1</sup> Republic of Rwanda, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resource, *A Porposal to Distribute a Cow to Every Poor Family in Rwanda*, May 2006. This project plans to donate a cow to each poor family in the Rwandan provinces, so as to help them produce agricultural goods for self-reliance

<sup>2</sup> USAID and FEWS NET, *Livelihoods Zoning ‘Plus’ Activity in Rwanda*, August 2011.

<sup>3</sup> The system of the *ubukonde* provided for the existence of a capoclan called *ubukonde*, who used to stand with his family on

existence of a reference figure, the capoclan or the king, who owned and managed a certain territory by distributing it to individuals inside their family or by temporarily delivering it to external users; land ownership passed from father to son as inheritance. With the arrival of settlers, first Germans (1885-1916) and then Belgians (1916-1962) this system radically changed. Belgians in fact decided to set up a centralized administrative management of the land through a colonial public office who determined who owns the land, distributing written possession titles.

The birth of the Republic of Ruanda, on 1 July 1962 did not change the situation: in fact, the centralized management gradually removing all the powers traditionally belonged to capiclan, and until the 1980s, a series of laws were favorable to those who owned the land through written law and not through traditional systems, as it was for the majority of the population.

These problems overlap the growing hostility between the two major ethnic groups, Hutu and Tutsi; the first, the majority, mostly poor farmers, the latter, the minority, the breeders who had been chosen by Belgians to support them in power management. From the 1960s the first significant massacre begins on the Tutsi population, forced them to flee to Uganda, where they organized an armed group, the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF). The climax of hostilities took place in 1994, when on April 6, the plane of the Rwandan president was shot down by triggering one of the most bloody genocide in history, causing death of about 1 million people in just three months. From 1994 until today the land problem has been dealt with by various laws and regulations, the Organic Land Law of 2005 was issued precisely in order to "secure the security of land ownership for all the Rwandans" through the activation of a procedure called Land Tenure Regularization that aimed to register the land by converting traditional rights into legal rights.

This law has many interesting points, such as the possibility for women to register the land at their own name or register with their husband, especially after the genocide which caused many windows and left women as the main farmers in the agricultural sector, so the chance to secure them a fair access to land registration is a very positive aspect. However, there are also critical points that, overlaps with the agricultural development plans, are contradictory and above all limit the possibilities of development of all agricultural areas.

The Rwandan government, in fact, with the aim of developing the sector of agribusiness, has proposed some plans for agricultural development and has indicated some directives: among them there's the "Crop Intensification Program"<sup>5</sup>, a crop intensification program designed to form areas where a single product is cultivated, and the "Plan for Strategic Transformation of Agriculture", a development plan divided into four areas of implementation. These strategies have the primary goal of contributing in a lasting way to reducing poverty and supporting the economic growth of Rwanda through the increase in agricultural production, the promotion of agricultural products, diversification of agricultural products, opportunities for agricultural income and the protection of natural resources and the environment; but are deeply unfavorable for small and medium-sized farmers, who are the majority in Rwanda, and are also difficult to implemented due to the poor consonance with the country's consolidation policies.

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a piece of land, reciting it as his own. The boss was distributing land to individuals belonging to his family, as well as to external individuals, to whom the land was granted in a commodity of use. These non-family members, called *abagererwa*, had a piece of land that could work by returning a part of each crop to the capoclan. The *abagererwa* remained outside the family unless they were married to a young woman of the clan, and could pass the commodity of father to son, with the approval of the capoclan. This system was abolished in 1954.

<sup>4</sup> The *isambu-igikingi* system was very similar to the *ubukonde*, but instead of the capoclan there was the figure of the king. Since ancient times Rwanda has always based the political system on a monarchy, and the king began to control the lands near his residence by distributing them among his supporters, who in turn had to guarantee the real court part of the land harvest. This system was predominantly used in areas closest to the monarchy's seat, while in the far hills the *ubukonde* system was the most used one. It was abolished in 1962, when the Republic of Rwanda was born.

<sup>5</sup> Republic of Rwanda, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resource, *Strategies for Sustainable Crop Intensification in Rwanda (CIP)*, 2011

If all this is a goal, the reality of rural Rwanda is still in a great difficult situation and backwardness.

Musha's territory exemplifies the situation of other rural areas of Rwanda. The inhabitants of Musha, mostly women, live in a situation of extreme poverty; the majority of the men were killed during the war or were in prison. The few men who are there work in mines or in the shop at the small bars available. Widows deal with their family working in fields and breeding their children.

These conditions, added to the poverty of the region and to subsistence farming, become an insurmountable problem for the entire population. The lack of experience of the elderly, deceased or refugees in other lands, has created a vacuum in the knowledge of agriculture and land, fundamental to the life of the young people left. Small children are at home: collecting wood and transporting water necessary for daily life.

The majority of children aged 7 to 14 go to school, attending the Primary School: the Rwandese school system includes 6 years of compulsory primary school, followed by a first high school cycle of three years and a second cycle of high school for another three years (plus three more optional, for access to the university). The government and ministry's efforts to ensure education for all are successful: in the east province on average 89.8% of children attend primary school. For the secondary school instead the data are less significant, in fact for the east province it is only frequented by 19% of the young population. Even when a young person is motivated and can attend secondary school, also for professional addresses, hardly once its finished is simply to find work in the village. There are two vocational schools in the Musha area, with addresses of accountancy, construction, computer science: young people who finish school often have to move to Kigali to find employment, and find it especially young people who have obtained a degree in construction, due to unfocused urban growth that the city is undergoing. Other young people who do not attend secondary school go to work in the fields of their families, completely lacking basic agricultural training. The level of schooling of adults is minimal: about 20% of men and 15% of women attended elementary schools, and few continued their studies attending high schools. Musha's main resource is agriculture, breeding (though in a few hands) and beekeeping. 90% of the local population lives from agriculture, particularly of sorghum, bananas, sweet potatoes, peanuts, corn, soy, coffee.

Youngs become the only hope of development and growth; but many of them find no future and this leads them to emigrate to cities where they are hoping to find a job but which too often forces them to do fall in banditism, drug addiction and prostitution.

### *3. Ecolé Technique Saint Kizito: the vocational training project*

In the eastern part of Musha sector, is located one of the two existing secondary schools, the "Ecolé Technique Saint Kizito".

The structure includes an administrative building with executive offices, a lecture hall and a library, a multifunctional place with a capacity of 700 people to meet the various needs of sports, training, cultural and religious backgrounds of the school and with a possible future opening to the territory, four dormitories for a total of 400 beds, nine classrooms, a physics lab hall, one for electronics and one of computing, two sanatorium and a kitchen annexed to a large refectory for 400 students.

There are then five guest accommodation facilities for a total of 10 mini-rooms for singles or for teachers who work there during the week and four homes for those who are present with the family, with adequate facilities. There is a soccer field available for outdoor activities, a basketball and a volleyball fields.

The school was built by the Barabba's Clowns Onlus Association, headquartered in Arese (MI), which works in Rwanda since 1995. The association intervened in support of a Salesian missionary just after the end of genocide, reconstructing a village for the reception of young poor, orphans or children with family problems. The village, called "Hameau des Jeunes Saint Kizito", currently hosts about 108 boys from 0 to 18 years old. Hameau des Jeunes has always had inside the small labs that could offer to the children who didn't go to higher school opportunities to learn a craft.



Currently there are numerous the European and American visitors coming in Musha for several reasons, either singles or in groups, over time in the village carrying out various activities, and staying in the rooms (about 10/12 places) made available for them.

The Barabba's Clowns Onlus Association and the Hameau des Jeunes S. Kizito are trying to answer to all these problems trying to change the context of structural poverty, through the project of support aimed at getting out the children and their families from poverty.

Recently Hameau des Jeunes has promoted the growth of micro-enterprise made through Twese Hamwe project in partnership with Barabba's Clowns onlus and funded by the Cariplo Foundation. Currently the "Ifashe Tugufashe" project is active, which in Kinyarwanda means "Helping Us Help You": every poor family who chooses to join the program select a project to be realized (buy a cow, refurbish the roof of the house, etc.) and work some hours in the village fields to get the funds needed to put in practice the project.

The Italian association "Barabba's Clowns Onlus" has also started a local center, constituting the association "Barabba's Clowns Onlus Rwanda." The school works in continuity and with the support of the "Hameau des Jeunes". The plannings of the two realities are tightly correlated, to guarantee a continuity in the educational formation.

### *General Aims*

- to allow the tourist and agricultural development of the zone
- to develop capacity building in the young people and in the local population
- participation of vulnerable groups
- cooperation for construction of durable peace
- support the growth of new vacancies
- collaboration among local corporate body, associations and population

### *Specific Aims*

- to ensure a gradual independence of the village
- to guarantee a professional future to the young people and independence to the single women or widows with children
- to transform the informal tourism system in formal, making it "sustainable tourism"
- to allow the transmission of the traditional culture

### *Stakeholder and Target Groups*

- women
- young guys of the Hameau des Jeunes Saint Kizito
- students of the training vocational school Saint Kizito
- local authorities: chief of Musha sector and Rwanda Local Development Support Fund

### *Final Beneficiaries*

- DIRECT: women and students of training school
- INDIRECT: people of Musha sector

## *Proposed Activities*

Implementation of activities aimed at the development of agriculture and tourist area, in agreement with government programs.

### ► **ACTION 1: SUSTAINABLE TOURISM**

The reception system of Hameau des Jeunes is an informal source of organizational difficulties, overlaps between numerous groups and financial incongruities.

In 2013 there were 71 people who visited the spaces available for welcoming tourists, covering all year round. The reception system is still informal, and even though it has worked well so far, it has in some cases caused organizational difficulties (many visitors did not book or warn of their arrival in advance), in some others caused overlapping between large groups, and in others again caused financial inconsistencies (there is not yet a fixed price for overnight stays and full board but only an indicative price: this leaves too much freedom for tourists who in some cases had left really insignificant grant when compared to the real expenses of their stay). If, on the one hand, the reception system works and can still work better if its plan to publicize or organize travel through contracted agencies; on the other the current system is weak, and needs to be formalized so that it can be controlled and managed.

This action foreseen:

- the implementation of the number of available places for tourists, with the construction of four new rooms, a new refectory (than at least 30/35 places), a kitchen and a common space.
- the management of the new spaces carried by local personnel (for cleanings, tourist guides, animators, cooks and waiters), who will be constituted in a cooperative, autonomously managed and whose profits will be reinvested in the training of the young people.
- the growth of services offered to the guests (as the activities of the village but also trips along the new tourist streets). These activities must be promote and publicized through the rwandan radio and web.

There is a small shop / bar near the entrance of the village already run by the Sisters responsible of the children and the girls of the center, who could be supported and could grow their business if the tourist's area frequency increased.

The tourism development project, placing itself within the government's demands for this area, can be promoted and advertised through the Rwandese media channels, in particular through radio, via internet and through its national recognition. In fact, it is important not only that the new reception spaces are known and used by foreign visitors, but also by Rwandese themselves, especially those who live in the city and who move around the lakes to spend rest days on weekends.

### ► **ACTION 2: VOCATIONAL TRAINING**

Education is a priority to get out of poverty, and the government plans to equip the Rwandan territory of new schools with agriculture and tourism courses. It is proposed, in this case, not to build new school sites, but to implement the existing technical school "Saint Kizito", already recognized at National level.

This action foreseen:

- A.** A training course on hospitality and tourism, to grow new staff, and guarantee job locally. For this new course it's possible to use the currently free spaces of the school. Students will be divided into groups and will carry out the training in the tourist village or in the kitchen of the school, and learn to cook local specialties to share with tourists and sell them as local products. To start the new course in tourism it is possible at first to use the spaces currently occupy by the electric laboratory, not used.
- B.** A course of agricultural training, to transmit traditional knowledge and implement them with modern techniques. The course is aimed at the agricultural training in order to exploit the potential of the land, and is direct at young farmers, who:



● will collaborate with the women who participate to the existing project “Ifashe Tugufashe” (micro-credit for self-sufficiency), in order to have reciprocal exchange: women, although not all of them have had a school education, could learn techniques and mechanisms for increasing and improving production, giving young people their daily practical work experience on the ground with the relative problems of practical implementation of scholastic theory. Improving women’s knowledge means improve women’s work, which will be qualitatively and quantitatively better, allowing the collection, storage and sale of products.

● will design and follow the development of a local radio channel<sup>6</sup> in Kinyarwanda, for the diffusion of new farming techniques, possibility of access to micro-finance, new initiatives etc. The transmission of agricultural knowledge is crucial for the development of the agricultural sector: the main means of communication and information in Rwanda, even among the poorest peasants, is radio, and all have one. The project intends to exploit this existing condition to involve as many actors as possible.

● follow the growth of the flower fields and plants for the production of essential oils, both for export and to be sold to tourists. This choice is justified by the fact that essential oils are indicated in the government’s agricultural development plans as an investment product<sup>7</sup>.

In addition, the fact that there are existing fields has led to the choice to develop this potential entirely, in particular through the production of geranium oil, calendula oil and perfumed soap production.

### ► ACTION 3: THE AGRICULTURE COOPERATIVE

To offer young people more employment opportunities by responding to the vocation of the territory, the project proposes the establishment of a cooperative outside the village and independent from it, for the production of beer and banana wine, a typical product of Rwanda.

The cooperative would be formed through the participation of the hill farmers, in partnership with young people. The tool of the cooperative was chosen to obviate a frequent problem in Rwanda, linked to the registration of ownership of the lands.

Almost all households haven’t one hectare of land to record, so the law recommends to gather to record the land. The registration of a certain portion of land as a cooperative property allows the cooperative participants to obtain the same rights on that land, guaranteeing them the security of possession; therefore the establishment of a cooperative is positive and beneficial for all the households of the area. Moreover, the establishment of the cooperative and the union of fields of farmers allows to have more hectares of banana plantation, which allow the production of wine and beer banana in large quantities, intended both for sale at the local-level and at regional trade or export. Wine and banana beer were indicated by the national plan for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises<sup>8</sup> as the primary growth product for Rwamagana district, so the project chooses to accept this indication, based on a study on the current production of small and medium-sized enterprises, which is the most in Rwanda.

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<sup>6</sup> It was inspired by the “Farmer Radio” project by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and Canadian NGO Farm Radio International, National Radio Television, Tanzania Government and various private radio stations, which in 2010 launched an information program addressed to Tanzanian households to improve the country’s agriculture by using the radio. The pilot project (2010 - 2012) involved 10 radio stations that managed to reach 40% of the country’s rural population. To encourage listeners’ participation and the broadcasting of radio broadcasts, “Listening Groups” were promoted. This initiative allows members of these groups to discuss the information transmitted by the radio, exchange views and intervene in broadcasts with suggestions or constructive criticisms. The listeners’ groups also participate in the award ceremony of the “model farm” of the various districts. The winner, often a farmers’ consortium, is assigned a tractor and the ability to access state-subsidized low-interest loans.

<sup>7</sup> Republic of Rwanda, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resource, *Rwanda: Ideal Conditions for High Value Products*, n.d

<sup>8</sup> Republic of Rwanda, Ministry of Trade and Industry, *SMEs Product Clusters in Rwanda*, 2012.

“[...]sensitize banks to invest in banana wine business[...], facilitate banana wine players to acquire new equipments[...], establish technology demo-centers to enable dissemination of appropriate technologies[...]

In production, there are inevitably waste that can be harvested and reused: the Rwamagana district collects waste from banana processing to reuse them in the production of paper and textile fibers, repaying the quantities deposited. Young people would be involved in this cooperative so they can get a job that can secure a profit without having to leave home, giving them time to cultivate fields and support their family of origin.

#### ► ACTION 4: THE FISHERMAN'S COOPERATIVE

This action regards the implementation phase of the fishermen's cooperative existing near the lake Muhazi, thereabout the village, inserting new guys in fishing, machining and sale of fish.

The existing cooperative is very small, and despite the fact that the lake is quite fishy, the amount of fish obtained is scarce, because the fishermen who work there often work here only part-time, because they also have to cooperate to the cultivation of their agricultural lands, supporting their numerous families. Expanding the cooperative by adding new guys could be an opportunity to increase the amount of fish caught and eventually sell it not only locally but also across the hills.

The cooperative of fishermen and the new cooperative for the production of wine and bananas beer will create a sort of small commercial network, promoting aperitifs, events, tastings and sales for tourists.

In addition, the creation of more or less restricted groups of people who carry out various activities is positive for the territory because it enhances the heterogeneity.

In fact, the establishment of a cooperative also has a purpose of social development: over the last few years some cooperatives have been established where Hutu and Tutsi of the same hills are working together for reconciliation<sup>9</sup>. During the genocide, it was not an exception that the neighbors would kill or betray each other, often the survivors were the victim of an attempted murder at their perpetual expense by their neighbors, who now, after twenty years, if imprisoned, have taken their punishment and come back in their houses, on their hill. Working together for the same purpose, collaborating again by pushing them to trust each other is a strategy put in place by various bodies to promote real reconciliation and also teaching young people the extermination that ethnic genocide has brought in 1994, for saying "never again". Adults are responsible for the transfer of traditional culture, so teaching young people how typical local products are produced, in order to doesn't lose this cultural tradition is also fundamental from a social point of view. The same Rwandan government is pushing for the formation of new cooperatives to be entrusted, at least in part, to the management of certain sectors, in order to increase their competitiveness and production (mainly the commercial and agricultural production sectors, such as production of coffee, tea and local crafts).

#### ► ACTION 5: COMMUNITY SPACE FOR RECONCILIATION

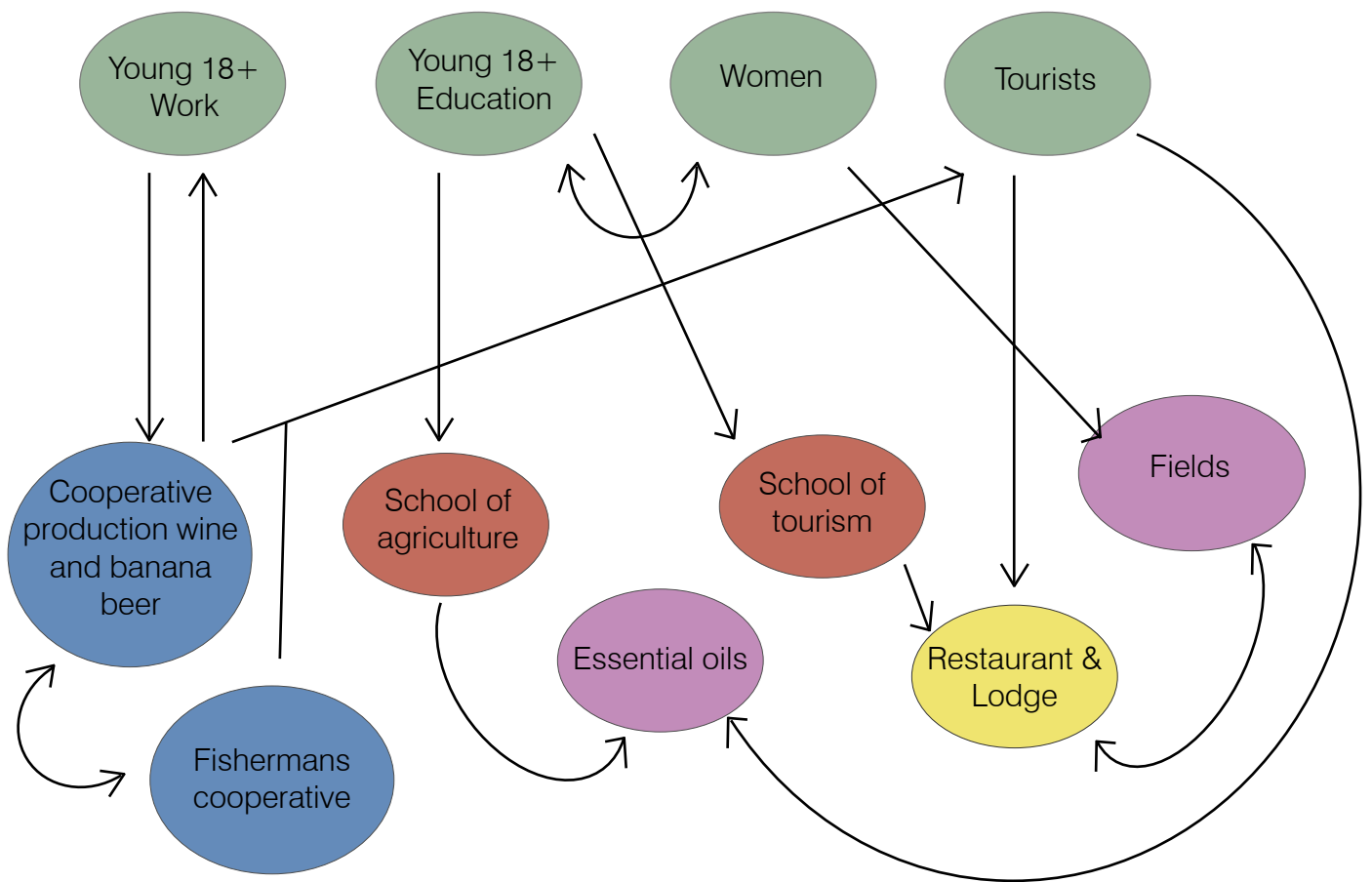
The transmission of the local culture is a fundamental aspect for the growth of sustainable tourism: it is expected to build outside the polyvalent hall of the school an open space that can accommodate performances, shows, meetings of different types. This will become the heart of the cultural development of the territory, intended to welcome:

- the meetings proposed for women who participate at "Ifashe Tugufashe" project (which are already followed by a social worker and that already organizes small meetings on different topics) and women of the hills, in order to develop a network of female solidarity that is also aimed at real reconciliation.
- the performances of the young clown of the NGO "Barabba's Clowns Rwanda", which aims to use theater and clowning to retrieve children in difficulty, approaching young people to this reality.

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<sup>9</sup> Reference has been made to some real cases, including the "Terimbere" cooperative (meaning "Let's Go"), which is based on the Zyp-Onlus Association, based in Kicukiro, Kigali. Also the "Ibuka" cooperative (which means "Remembering") was founded by Rose Burizihiza with the intent to put together Hutu and Tutsi of the same hill with the aim of making them work together in the fields by remembering what it is happened and giving a chance to redeem to killers and survivors.

## Project scheme



## *Expected results*

Thanks to project implementation is expected a general improvement of current living conditions, both in Musha sector and in the Hameau des Jeunes.

In particular, it is expected to solve the problem of youth dispersal of the village once they become older, offering them the opportunity to build a solid and lasting future there.

Adding new courses of study in the school, this will provide more opportunities for choice and thus will attract more visitors, not only from Musha sector but also from Rwamagana district; moreover both through agricultural training and through the tourist / hotel training will be transfer knowledge and skills to young people who can in turn train and support adults in the area. Tourism, thanks to the construction of new housing and autonomous spaces from the village, and thanks to the transformation into a formal system through the establishment of the cooperative, will become independent, and will contribute to achieving the autonomy of the village.

The proposed project, starting from education, will not only have immediate good results, but also future outcomes of development of the entire sector. Furthermore, the education won't be only theoretical but mainly practice, this in order to respond to the real needs of the territory.

A practical and clear response to the legislative uncertainties regarding the ownership of land is given by the constitution of cooperatives, which also play an important social role, and which are expected to become autonomous and become part of a network of development, thanks to a system that integrates various resources (young people, women and tourists) creating a balanced circle.

Only through the participation of the local population it is possible to think that the realization of this project has a future and continuity that can't be guaranteed only through the constructive and initial start-up coming from co-workers outside the village. For this reason, it is important that the cooperatives are made up of local residents and that the training is directed at young people, so that the idea of responsibility towards their future is more closely aligned with the full autonomy of external sources. The project aims in all its parts to empowerment, to capacity building and the creation of social networks that will enable future sustainable development.

## RELEVANCE OF THE PROPOSAL ON:

### *..aims*

This project helps to ensure the tourism and agricultural development of the area in the long term, because it is based not only on the existing potential of the area, but also on capacity building and skills to be transmitted from generation to generation.

In this way the main actors of the project are the vulnerable subjects, young people who would otherwise not have a future and women who would continue to live in stent and hardly succeed in improving the productivity of their field. By participating equally in women and men in the project, gender equality, distribution of work and tasks is ensured, a condition that in Rwanda, especially in the countryside, has always been difficult to realize because women were considered "second " to husbands and, in general, to men.

This project, on the other hand, gives many responsibilities to women, both in their mothers' role and in the role of women workers. Young people are given the chance to build a professional future or to pursue their studies.

Whether through training or through other collaboration (as in the case of the cooperative for example), it tries to work together overcoming the apparent differences of ethnicity and building a future of reconciliation between neighbors, a future of peace.

## *..framework*

The project is structured and proposed starting with an analysis of the existing condition, and the data and programs development defined by the government

It proposes agricultural development, considering that 80% of the Rwandan population works in this area and that agriculture contributes 47% to GDP in the country. In addition, agribusiness development is part of the six pillars of “Rwanda Vision 2020”, a plan laid out in 2000 that gives 20 years of time to the country to get out of poverty. More in detail, the development proposal for the cultivation of essential oils and the establishment of the cooperative for the production of banana beer/wine arise from the specific potential of the site and from district or national indications: as already mentioned, banana beer/wine is considered as a “priority development product” for Rwamagana district for small and medium-sized enterprises; while essential oils are listed among the eight optimal products for the development of the export sector in Rwanda. The tourist development proposal of the area also arises from the analysis of existing conditions: thanks to the presence of the lake and the village of young people, Musha sector has attracted many tourists over the years. Combining these features with national indications, the project considers the future nature of the site as a tourist development. This demonstrates that the proposed choices have been structured from the deep features of the site, trying to highlight its territorial, cultural and social aspects.

## *..target groups and beneficiaries*

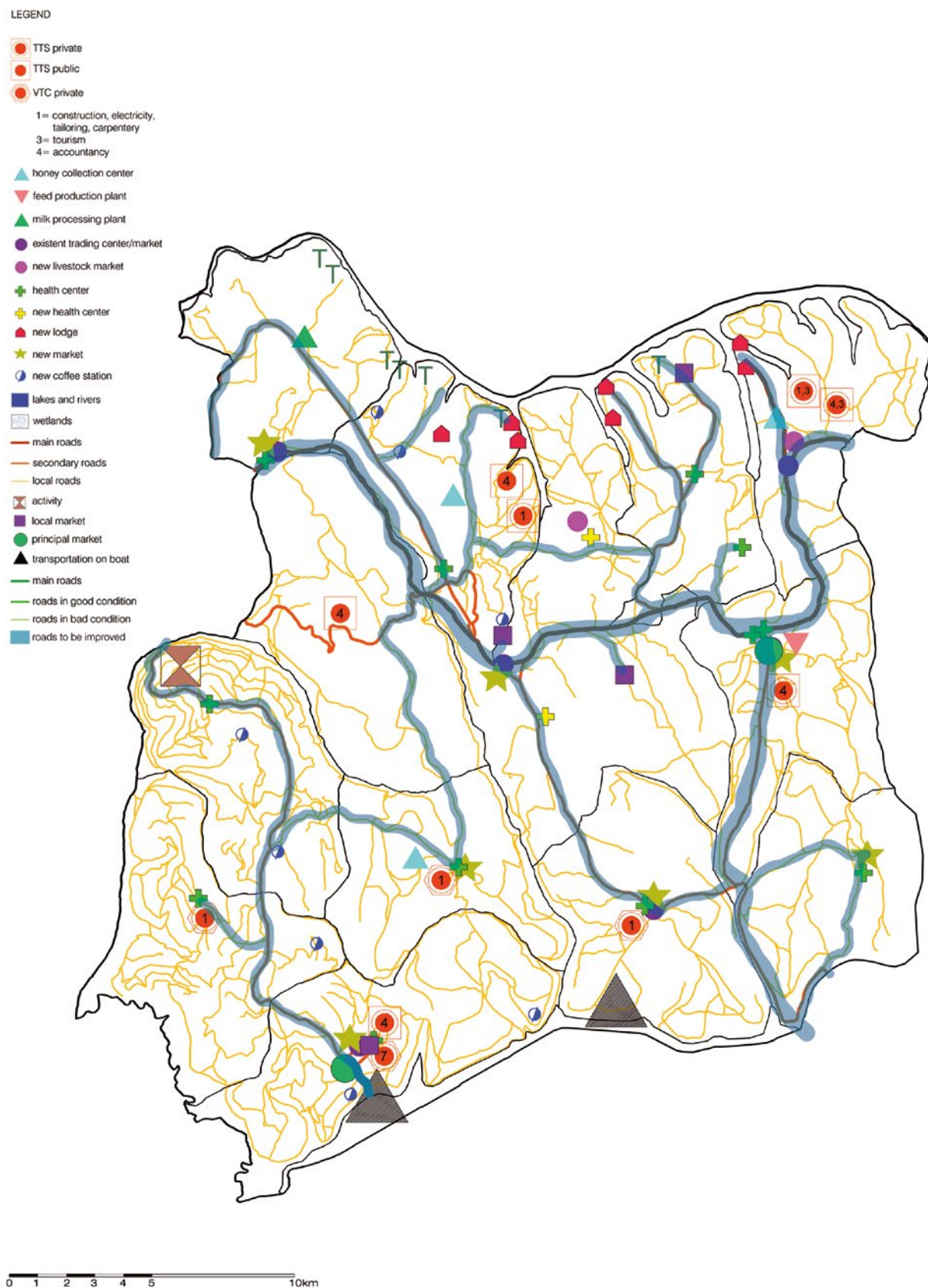
The project has been structured to address current issues of target groups, single women, widows and young people, and to benefit the final beneficiaries, ie the entire population of Musha. With their participation in the project, women will gain ever greater autonomy and will see an improvement in their daily agricultural output, both in quantity and quality.

To young people who, when they reach the age of majority, have to leave the village and build a life, is given support to build it locally, exploiting their potential and their aspirations. In this way, remaining in Musha, they have a job that will enable them to support their family of origin, certainly poor if present, and to build their own family. Young people who have the opportunity will become themselves promoters of development. Benefiting from the positive outcomes of the project will however be the entire Musha population, who will see an increase of tourism in the area and will benefit from courses held by young agronomists to improve the quantity and quality of the products. Moreover, thanks to the possibility of performing shows, training meetings and cultural encounters, the adult and elderly population can still be a source of knowledge, as it has always been in the Rwandan tradition.

## PARTNERS

- NGO Hameau des Jeunes Saint Kizito-Musha
- Ecolé Technique Saint Kizito-Musha
- NGO Barabba's Clowns Onlus-Arese
- NGO Barabba's Clowns Onlus-Rwanda
- Prefecture of Musha
- District of Rwamagana

# Analysis of governmental plans <sup>10</sup> of Rwamagana District for defining the intervention strategy



Data re-elaborated by the author

<sup>10</sup>Republic of Rwanda, National Institute of Statistic of Rwanda, *Rwamagana Administrative Map*, 2010

Republic of Rwanda, MINICOM, *Directive for Sustainable Land Use Planning 2010-2020*

Republic of Rwanda, National Institute of Statistic of Rwanda, *EICV3 Distric Profile - Rwamagana district*, 2011

Republic of Rwanda, Rwanda Local Development Support Fund, *District's Potentialities Assessment for the Integrated and Selfcentered Local Economic Development - Rwamagana District*, 2013

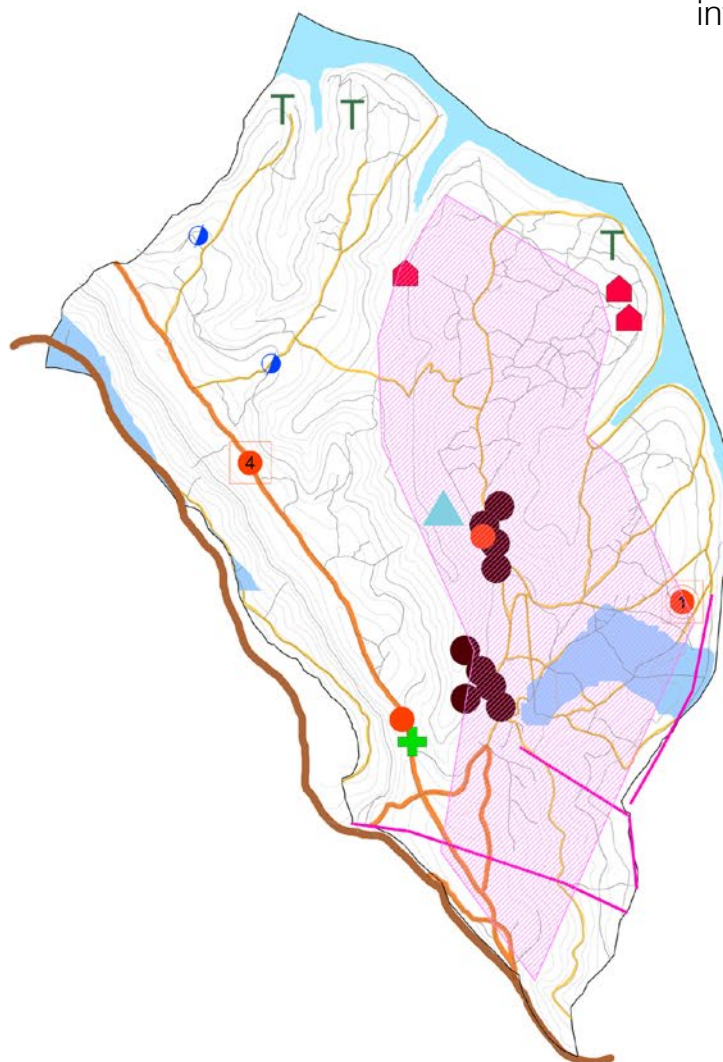
Republic of Rwanda, Rwamagana District, *District Development Plan 2013-2018*, 2013



# Analysis of governmental plans <sup>11</sup> of Musha sector for defining the intervention strategy

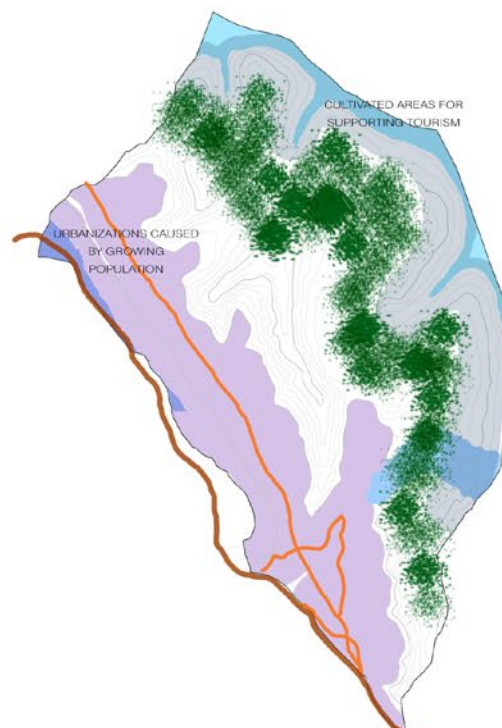
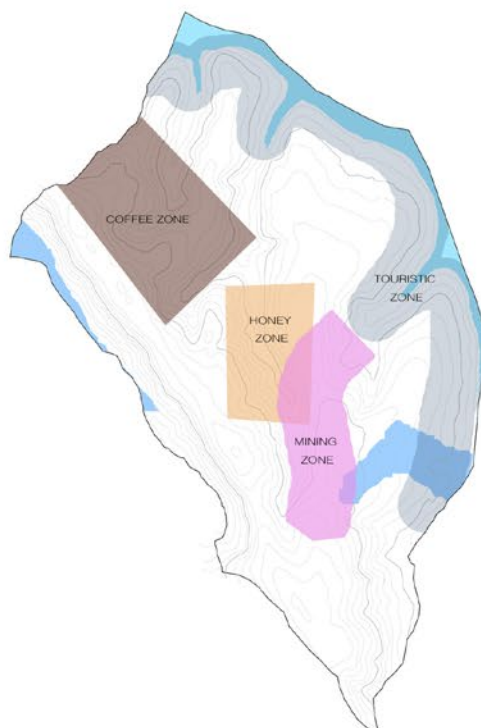
## LEGEND

- TTS private
- TTS public
- 1 = construction, electricity, tailoring, carpentry
- 4 = accountancy
- schools
- T transportation on boat
- new lodge
- new coffee station
- + health center
- ▲ new honey cultivation
- lakes and rivers
- wetlands
- main roads
- secondary roads
- local roads
- trail
- powerline
- Sn
- great exploitation



GOVERNMENT PLANS

....WHAT'S MISSING?



Data re-elaborated by the author

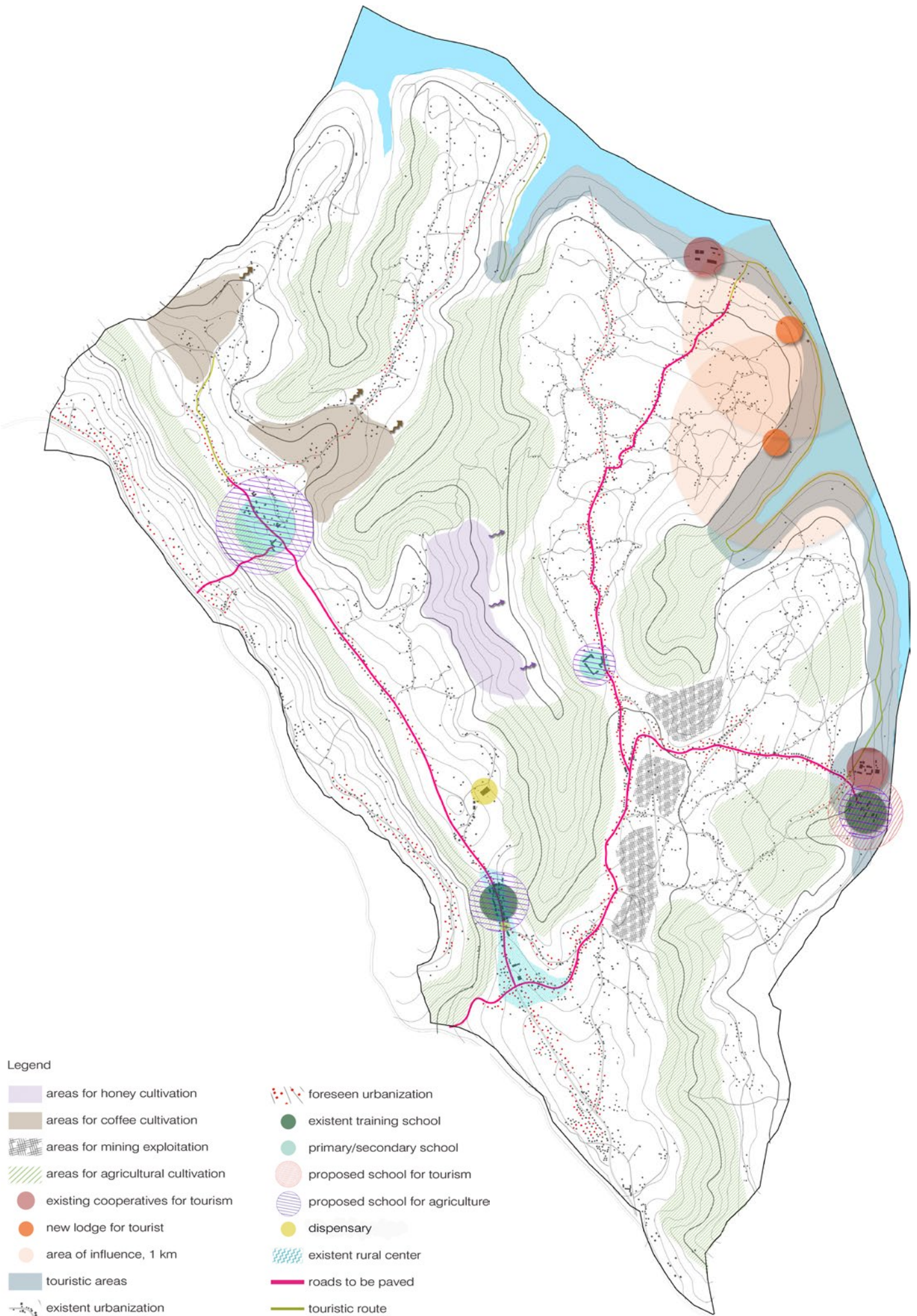
<sup>11</sup> Republic of Rwanda, MINICOM, *Directive for Sustainable Land Use Planning 2010-2020*

Republic of Rwanda, National Institute of Statistic of Rwanda, *EICV3 Distric Profile - Rwamagana district*, 2011

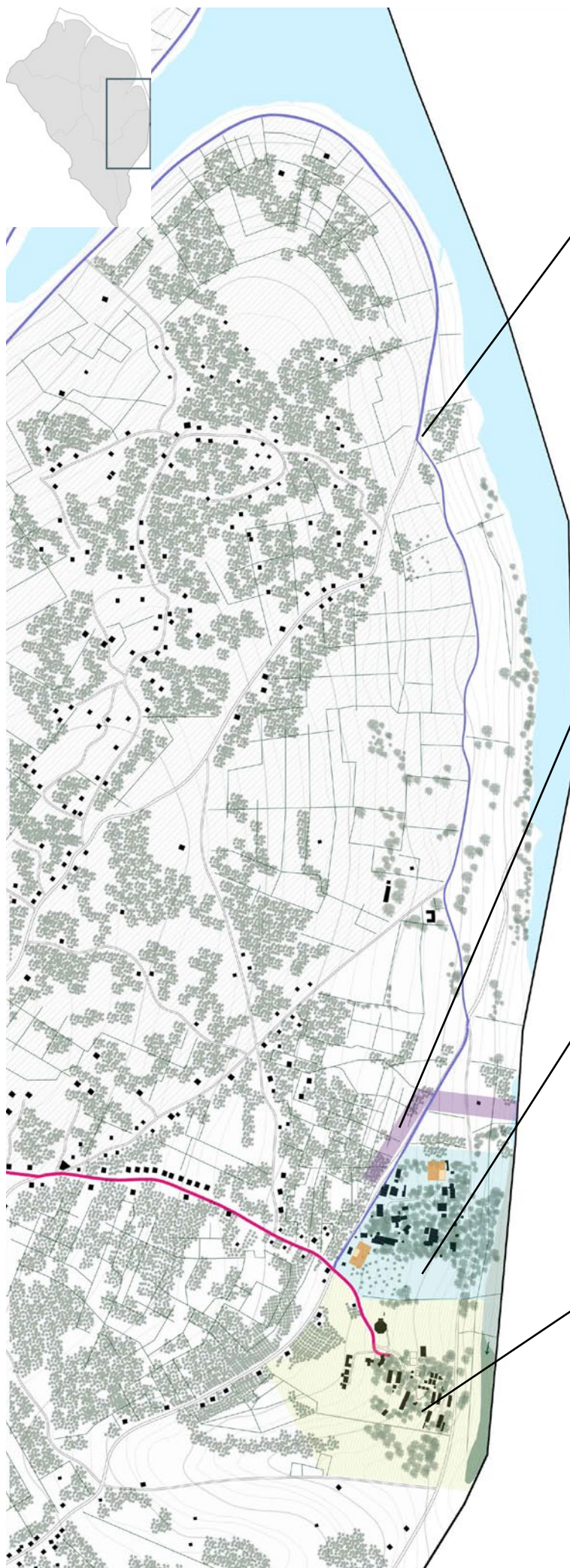
Republic of Rwanda, Rwanda Local Development Support Fund, *District's Potentialities Assessment for the Integrated and Selfcentered Local Economic Development - Rwamagana District*, 2013

Republic of Rwanda, Rwanda Geology and Mines Authority, *Mineral Potential and Exploitation Map of Rwanda*, 2010









FIELDS FOR TRAINING  
AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE



WORKING ACTIVITIES/  
COMMERCIAL AND PRODUCTION



HAMEAU DES JEUNES SAINT KIZITO



ECOLÉ TECNIQUE SAINT KIZITO





