

# Africa

## Constellation: AF Central C5.2

Rwanda, Burundi



### NEEDS

Continent: **Africa**

Constellation: **AF Central C5.2**

Country: **Rwanda**

#### Cry of the Earth

- deforestation results from uncontrolled cutting of trees for fuel
- overgrazing
- land degradation
- soil erosion
- a decline in soil fertility (soil exhaustion)
- wetland degradation and loss of biodiversity
- widespread poaching

#### Cry of the Poor

- The 1994 genocide decimated Rwanda's fragile economic base, severely impoverished the population, particularly women,
- Rwanda is one of the most densely populated countries in Africa, its persistent high population growth and increasingly small agricultural landholdings will put additional strain on families' ability to raise foodstuffs and access potable water
- Energy shortages, instability in neighboring states, and lack of adequate transportation linkages to other countries continue to handicap private sector growth.
- government continues to limit the ability of opposition parties and civil society groups to function freely and independently
  - Journalists who dare to question the official narrative are harassed or arrested

Continent: **Africa**

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Country: **Burundi**

#### Cry of the Earth

- soil erosion as a result of overgrazing and the expansion of agriculture into marginal lands

### Commitments

- deforestation (little forested land remains because of uncontrolled cutting of trees for fuel)
- habitat loss threatens wildlife populations

### Cry of the Poor

- Food shortages, poverty, and a lack of clean water contribute to a 60% chronic malnutrition rate among children.
- A lack of reproductive health services → mortality and fertility rates are both among the world's highest
- more than a half million Burundian refugees returned home from neighboring countries, mainly Tanzania
  - Reintegrating the returnees has been problematic due to their prolonged time in exile, land scarcity, poor infrastructure, poverty, and unemployment
- a landlocked, resource-poor country with an underdeveloped manufacturing sector
- forced labor and sex trafficking
  - business people recruit Burundian girls for prostitution domestically, as well as in Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda, and the Middle East
  - recruit boys and girls for forced labor in Burundi and Tanzania
  - children and young adults are coerced into forced labor in farming, mining, informal commerce, fishing, or collecting river stones for construction