

DIVERSITY OF NON-NATIVE TREE POPULATIONS IN THE DIFFERENT DISTRICTS OF RWANDA

Kabera Telesphore¹ and Dismas Bakundukize²

¹University of Rwanda, College of Science and Technology, Kigali, Rwanda

²Rwanda Natural Resources Authority (RNRA), Kigali, Rwanda

This study describes the occurrence and the distribution of non-native trees in 30 Rwandese Districts. Rwanda has a total of 63 different species, of which 40 are non-native and 23 are native; only species of the *Alder* genus was found to be present in all 30 Districts. The Directorate in charge of forestry under Ministry of Natural Resources (MINERENA) lacks reliable and up-to-date information on forest and tree resources, such as their number, wood volumes, and growth. Although a national forest inventory is underway, it will only provide the volume and areas of forest productivity as well as the different stages of forests degradation, but will not highlight the number of trees. The insects *Leptocybe invasa* and *Thaumastocoris peregrinus* damage large areas of *Eucalyptus* plantations in Rwanda. The concluding recommendations of this study is that forest managers need to start finding a way to collect tree data and conduct comprehensive surveys before undertaking tree planting projects. They should also train communities on how to maintain trees.

Keywords: Rwandese Districts, Native and Non-Native species, *Alder* genus

Contact Information: Kabera Telesphore, University of Rwanda, College of Science and Technology, P.O.Box 3900, Kigali, Rwanda, Email: Email: kabera@yahoofr