

## STATE OF HYDROGEOLOGICAL DISASTERS IN NORTHWESTERN RWANDA

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### Abstract

About fifty people lost their lives in the recent disasters that occurred on May 8, 2016 and which affected mainly districts of Northern Province, particularly Gakenke District. Similar disasters take place yearly and they are likely to continue, even to a higher extent, unless serious studies and measures are taken for their prevention. This study was conducted to that end. It focused on landslides and floods in Northwestern part of Rwanda. The study reveals that these disasters result from the combination of the factors related to rainfall, topography, vegetation cover, bedrock, soil development and human activities. Deep analysis shows a big effect of unsuitable land use. The study proposes appropriate preventing measures.

**Key words:** Disaster, Hydrogeological disaster, Northwestern Rwanda, landslide, flood.