



Republic of Rwanda
**Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation**

Rwanda's eAPP experience

-
14th eAPP forum Marrakesh

Eric NGABO, Chief Digital Officer – Foreign Affairs Sector



Strategic drivers behind Rwanda's accession



Republic of Rwanda
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation

Ease of Doing Business

- ✓ Simplify legalization procedures for foreign business documents
- ✓ Reduce delays affecting investors and companies operating across jurisdictions and Rwandans living abroad.

International Integration

- ✓ Align Rwanda with internationally recognized document authentication standards
- ✓ Strengthen trust in Rwandan and foreign public documents

Digital Government Agenda

- ✓ Support Rwanda's national vision for end-to-end digital public services



Why Rwanda Implemented e-Apostille from Day One?



Republic of Rwanda
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation

Digital by Design

- ✓ Rwanda effectively accessed the Apostille convention in June 2024.
- ✓ Almost all G2C services went online by end of 2024.

Strategic Considerations

- ✓ Avoid future migration from paper to digital
- ✓ Ensure faster processing mechanism
- ✓ Enable online verification to reduce fraud risks



Implementation journey



Republic of Rwanda
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation

We were inspired by others

We did not start on a blank note, we benchmarked from:

- ✓ Belgium
- ✓ Sweden.

MURAKOZE to Belgium and Sweden for their openness, collaboration, and willingness to share their experiences with us.

We are ourselves ready to share our experience and open to technical cooperations.



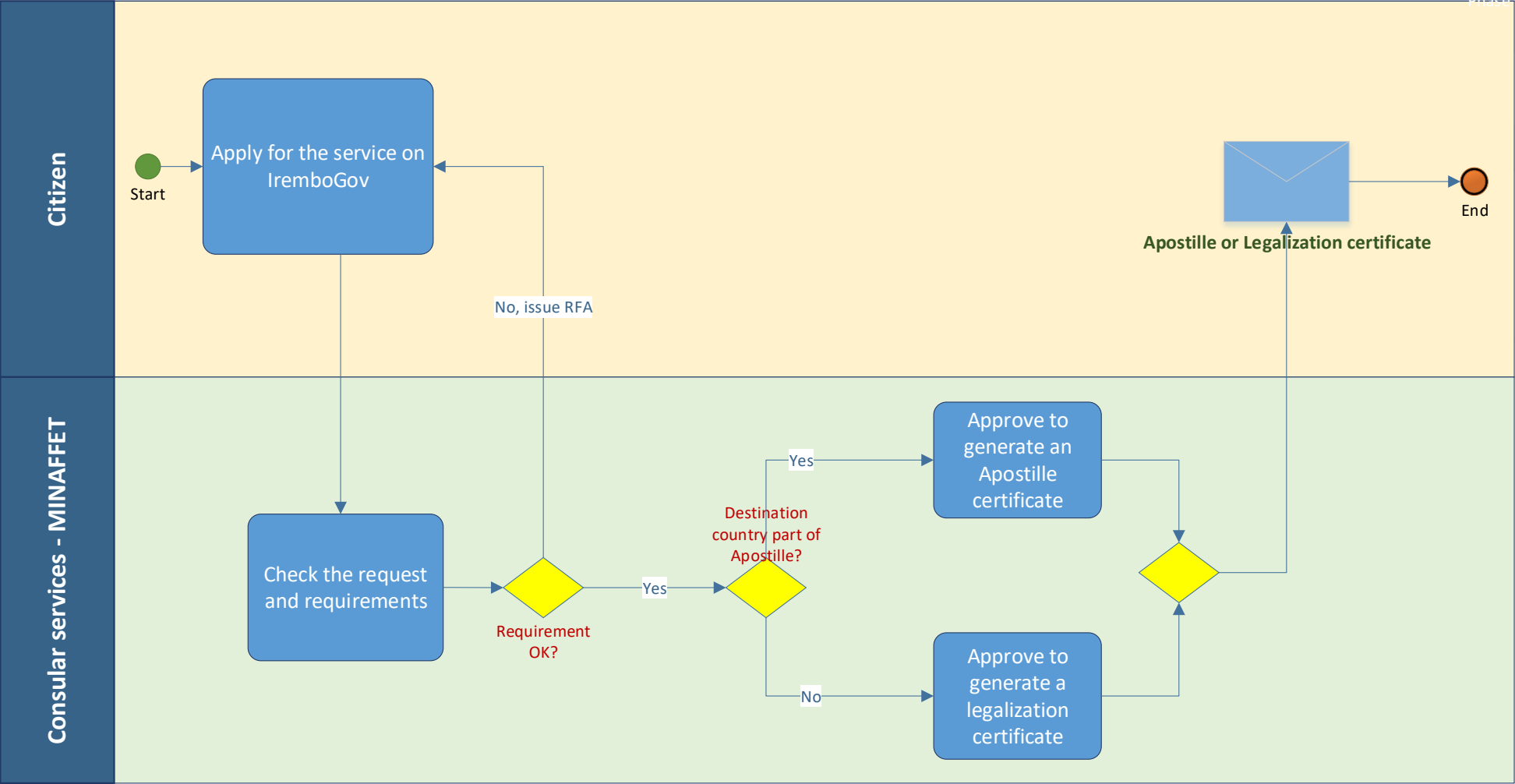
In partnership with Irembo

Our Apostille service is on www.Irembo.gov.rw

- Fast and easier on-boarding of the e-Apostille and verification mechanism.
- Integrated payment gateway.
- A large network of agents for user support
- Advanced data analytics



e-Apostille process



e-Apostille certificate

APOSTILLE

(Convention de la Haye du 5 Octobre 1961)

1. Country: **Rwanda**
2. Has been signed by: **Christine Murerwa**
3. Acting in the capacity of: **Notary**
4. Bears the seal/stamp of: **Ministry of Justice**

Certified

5. At: **Kigali, Rwanda**
6. On: **16/03/2026**
7. By: **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**
8. Application No: **B260313172**
9. Stamp:
10. Signature:



RUTAGANIRA Olivier
Director General of Protocol

To verify this certificate, search the Application number B26031317 on <https://irembo.gov.rw/support/documents> and to view the underlying documents click on this link <https://irembo.gov.rw/auth/documents-verification/en/B260313172> or scan the QR code.



This Apostille is not to be used in Rwanda and only confirms the authenticity of the signature, seal or stamp and the capacity of the person who signed or certified the underlying document. It does not certify the authenticity of the content of the underlying document.

DOCUMENT ISSUED ON
irembo Gov

Verification

To verify this certificate, search the Application number B26031317 on <https://irembo.gov.rw/support/documents> and to view the underlying documents click on this link <https://irembo.gov.rw/auth/documents-verification/en/B260313172> or scan the QR code.



This Apostille is not to be used in Rwanda and only confirms the authenticity of the signature, seal or stamp and the capacity of the person who signed or certified the underlying document. It does not certify the authenticity of the content of the underlying document.

DOCUMENT ISSUED ON
irembo Gov



Republic of Rwanda
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation

Challenges



Key challenges

Internal

- Digital literacy.
- Some registries are not yet fully digitized, end to end digitization is still a challenge

External

- Requirement for additional notarization by some embassies
- Challenge to validate paper based Apostilles



Lessons learned

1. Legal Reform and Digital reform should move together

Accession to international conventions creates an opportunity to redesign services, not only digitize existing bureaucracy.

2. Leveraging existing Digital Public Infrastructure accelerates implementation

Leveraging an already adopted government platform reduced implementation complexity and improved user adoption.

3. Public-Private Partnerships can accelerate Government Innovation

The collaboration with Irembo enabled faster deployment and operational scalability.

5. Digital Verification Strengthens Trust

Electronic verification mechanisms





Future integration



Upcoming integration

- e-Notary and e-Stamps system (Under development)
- Single Digital ID (Massive enrolment ongoing)



Recommendations



Recommendations

- We encourage Contracting Parties that have not yet implemented the e-APP components to consider the **adoption of electronic Apostilles and electronic Registers**, in order to enhance efficiency, security, accessibility and trust in cross-border document authentication.
- We advocate for the establishment of **a secure and interoperable shared verification repository**, spearheaded by the HCCH secretariat and integrated with national e-Apostille and e-Register systems, to facilitate seamless and reliable verification of Apostilles across jurisdictions.



Shukran



Republic of Rwanda
**Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation**