

HALF-YEAR PROGRES REPORT

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Project title: Enhancing Climate Change Resilience in Great Lakes Region Watersheds: the Lake Kivu Catchment and Rusizi River CRAG.

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INTRODUCTION

The Climate Resilience Altidunal Gradient (CRAG) project is implemented by a consortium of BirdLife International (lead organization), the BirdLife Partners Association Burundaise pour la protection de la Nature (ABN) in Burundi, Association pour la Conservation de la Nature au Rwanda (ACNR) in Rwanda, Horizon Nature, an NGO working in Eastern DRC, and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS - Rwanda).



The goal of the project is to help to understand, and respond to, increasing environmental pressures due to climate change, and to create and expand incentives to conserve biodiversity and ecosystem services in the South Kivu and Rusizi River catchments

It is a project for an overall budget of 63.500 USD for Burundi, over 3 years from April 2014 to march 2016. The project will be implemented in Bubanza and Cibitoke provinces.

In fact, the period reported covers 6 months with effect from April 2014 to September 2014 whose completions towards achievements are the following:



Technical Report

Objective 1: Participatory Development of a CRAG Intervention Plan

1.2 Organise a regional workshop in Year One in collaboration with the Lake Basin Authorities for Lakes Kivu and Tanganyika to introduce the project, mobilise key stakeholders at national level, and identify sources of information and channels of communication

From 16thSeptember 2014 to 18th September 2014, ABN staff members (President and chief Executive) including CRAG project partners (BirdLife, ABN, ACNR, HN and WCS, Anton Seimon and team), the Lake Kivu and Rusizi River Basin Authority (ABAKIR), and various representatives from government, NGOs, and the private sector from Burundi, DRC, Rwanda and Tanzania, attended a Regional workshop in Rwanda.

1.5. Using the outputs from 1.3 and 1.4, produce maps for the CRAG that depict indicators of where the biggest threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services in the CRAG are anticipated as a result of climate change and development activities. (BirdLife [lead] and WCS

ABN contributed by appointing 10 sites, future activities zones of CRAG project in Burundi.:

-City of Rugombo, - City of Cibitoke, - Site on river Nyamagana, - Site on river Kaburantwa, - City of Kagunuzi (on Kagunuzi river), - Watershed site of Nderama, - Watershed site of Ruvyimvyia, - Site on river Mpanda, - Kibira National Park and , - Rusizi National Park.



1.6 Hold a meeting of Key stakeholders to undertake a dynamic threat assessment for biodiversity and ecosystem services in the CRAG, integrating current and future threats using outputs from activities 1.3. consultation on treat assessment

9th September, 2014. Questionnaire Survey

The purpose of the survey was to understand how climate change, economic and demographic pressures, can affect human development, agriculture, natural resources and biodiversity in Kivu-Rusizi landscape.

The distribution of the questionnaire and data collection took place in Bujumbura City. Samples consisted of people working in protection of the environment or chosen on the basis of their knowledge of the field: Sectoral Chamber of agri-business, ARCOS, IGEBU 350 Burundi, network on climatology, Department of Forestry, MEETU, Hotel and Tourism , Ministry of Energy and Mines, journalists, farmers in Bubanza, and Cibitoke etc. To all these people, a questionnaire was submitted to them either on paper or by email. Dated 09 and 10/09/2014, We collected data in Bubanza and Cibitoke. In these two provinces, eight people, including a sexagenarian who experienced so many climate changes, have accepted to answer to the questionnaire while in Bujumbura, at least 12 people answered the questionnaire. In total 20 people from Bujumbura, Bubanza and Cibitoke answered to the questionnaire.

Interviewed persons no	Institutions
1	Institut geographique du burundi
2	Institut National de l'Environnement et de la Conservation de la Nature
3	Presidence de la Republique
4	Chambre Sectorielle d'agribusiness
5	Departement des Forets
6	Universite du Burundi
7	Universite du Burundi
8	Service du Genie rural
9	Commune Musigati
10	Journalist
11	Hotelerie et Tourisme
12	Ministere de l'Eau, de l'Environnement, de l'amenagement du Territoire et de l'Urbanisme
13	350 burundi Network on climate change
14	Service du Genie rural
15	DPAE Cibitoke
16	Businessman
17	Sexagerian
18	Foctionnaire
19	Farmer
20	Journalist

Objective 2: Involve local partners to build awareness and support for the plan

2.1 Organise national workshops in Burundi, Rwanda, and DRC in Year One to introduce the project, identify and mobilise key stakeholders at local levels, and identify sources of local information and channels of communication



28th August 2014: ABN held a National workshop seminar on August 28, 2014 at King's Conference Center Hotel in Bujumbura within the framework of the project "Enhancing Climate Change Resilience in Great Lakes Region Watersheds: the Lake Kivu Catchment and Rusizi River CRAG".

Thirty Participants in the workshop followed the

presentations on climate change situation and action in the country. They become aware of CRAG project, its goals and intended results. Furthermore, they were asked to be the spokesmen and women of the project.(A workshop report is available)

2.2. Consult with local stakeholders to validate and enrich outputs from Activities 1.3-1.6, and involve them in the consultation process (Activities 1.6-1.7) to prepare the final version of the CRAG Intervention Plan

Field visit on 12/09/ 2014. Population of Ruvyimvy have been informed that CRAG project will soon begin its activities on Ruvyimvy hilltops. They get informed that this project is being implemented by three countries: Burundi, Rwanda and Congo, to protect watersheds basins of lakeKivu-Rusizi.



ABN visits Ruvyimvy population.

The chief executive of ABN asked the participants if the best choice is to continue carrying out activities upstream of the Ruvyimvy hill rather than choosing another location. The population chose "Bitare" hill instead of Ruvyimvy as they explained that Bitare hill is very rugged and no protection activities have never been done on it so far as Ruvyimvy upstream has already benefited from some protection activities. Afterwards, the participants were asked to work hand in hand with the new coordinator of CRAG project who had just been presented to them.

The visit continued and ended by going to view Bitare site that will henceforth replace Ruvyimvy hill basis to the population's wishes.

From 30th September 2014 to 1st October 2014: Visit of the 10 sites already annotated, possible future zones of CRAG's activities.

Mountains and Towns visited:

The visit to Muyebe mountain enabled us to have a fine view on the hill of Bitare and Mpanda river downstream in Rugazi commune of Bubanza province. It is a very steep hill just down the Kibira forest. It is not reforested and is very rugged with high risk of accidents especially during the rainy season according to the population.

Then comes Nderama hill formed by a set of hills that border Kibira forest in Bukinanyana commune of Cibitoke province. Access to these hills is very difficult because the road leading there is impassable by vehicle. Passengers have difficulty moving on foot or bike because they have to make long distances trip with a high risk of falling from a height.

The town of Kagunuzi is also located in Cibitoke province. It's a really convenient place because it is connected to the capital Bujumbura by an asphalted road. The center has no trees planted, there are no shade trees. Downtown kagunuzi one can see goats grazing in the grasslands.

Cibitoke City is a fast-expanding city. It is a city that has not shade tree. Similar to the city of Cibitoke, Kagunuzi is not a green city although it is a very active trade city.

Rivers visited:

Mpanda, Kagunuzi, Kaburantwa, Nyamagana, all these rivers have their sources in Kibira mountain range and flow into the Rusizi river. In those rivers we can see muddy water with a brownish tinge due to agricultural activities taking place along these rivers. In fact, farmers who cultivate marshlands are not protecting riverbanks while many miners dig around the banks of Nyamagana, seeking for gold nuggets.



Bean field



Holes dug by gold smugglers

INVOLVEMENT IN SIMILAR ACTIVITIES OF PARTNERS.

On 23 September 2014, at the Royal Hotel Palace in Bujumbura, ABN attended the final workshop of the integrated vulnerability analysis in Burundi. The workshop was organized by MEEATU, supported by the German Government through GiZ NGOs under the ACCESS project (Adaptation to Climate Change for the protection of water resources and soil project). This workshop sought the dissemination of the results of the vulnerability analysis at the national and local level for pilot intervention areas of ACCESS project. There was a film projection on "Adaptation to climate change" and then the presentation about local vulnerability analysis in watersheds (objectives, approach, results, potential adaptation measures for the pilot areas). After the presentations, two analyzes received attention from the participants: the first was a study of maps showing the vulnerability of Burundi to climate change. There would be a high probability that in the next 100 years, Burundi Planning for Resilience in East Africa through Policy, Adaptation, Research and Economic Development (PREPARED) Project According to the presenter, french data on vulnerability of Burundi haven't been well experiencing a very high rainfall with frequent flooding. It is also possible that dry seasons will be very long with considerably high temperatures.

The second was a training workshop which took place in Kenya within exploited and new data compilation is going on in order to obtain more realistic data As adaptation measures to climate change, it was proposed to combat erosion, reforestation, watershed management and ravines, awareness, storm water management etc. In conclusion, recommendations focused on the integration of the approach to ecosystem-based adaptation and its implementation in policy at local and national level. Please find below maps link about the vulnerability to drought and erosion.

<http://webgis.eurac.edu/burundi>

RESULTS ACHIEVED

Regional workshop (was attended) report (received).

A national workshop (organized) report was done.

Ten sites zones were identified and visited.

A Workshop of a partner on a similar case (climate change) was attended.

A questionnaire survey about treats assessment was conducted.

CHALLENGES

- Burundi is entering an election period (27march 2015 to 9 August 2015; the population is focused on elections and do not pay much attention on other activities.
- Concerning the Questionnaire Survey some persons who answered the questionnaire complained that it was a bit long and not matching their profile.

- During our field visit, we saw clearly that household near Kibira take wood in the Kibira forest as they do not have enough trees plantations in their fields.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the whole situation above, the following recommendations are made:

- It's urgently needed to create Local Community Groups to work with and get information from, as it is planned in the project.
- The questionnaire can be prepared short to be filled even with persons in a hurry.
- On the hills, the population proposed to trace contour lines and plant trees to avoid erosion on the mountains. In urban centers, shade trees should be planted but animals like goats should be prevented from damaging the small trees when they are growing.
- On rivers should be growing herbs along the river banks for flood prevention to protect marshland crops.
- To be successful in CRAG project is suitable we interchange Nderama by another site to avoid a poor follow up of activities when taking into consideration the problems above mentioned.
- Finally, it would be necessary to fill up with soil ditches digs left open by miners in search of gold nuggets.

CONCLUSION

Aside those challenges above mentioned, we estimate that activities were performed with satisfaction during this semiannual period. We also consider that CRAG project contribution to minimize climate change negative impact is very important for the population. We are confident that CRAG project will reach its goals in view of all activities already carried out until now.