



Meeting report on Training needs assessment for Ubudehe committees

Support for the Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) Plan Kinigi Area, Rwanda:
Meeting report on Training needs assessment for Ubudehe committees was provided by the:

CENTRAL AFRICAN REGIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (CARPE/USAID),
VIRUNGA FOCAL AREA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO AND RWANDA: a WWF led Consortium, including WCS, SNV and AWF, made possible with the generous support of the American People.



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A Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) Plan was developed for the Kinigi Area comprising of five ex-districts: Mutura, Buhoma, Mutobo, Kinigi and Bukamba in Rwanda, all bordering Parc National des Volcans. The CBNRM plan seeks:

- To minimize threats (due to high demand) for natural resources within and to guarantee the long-term protection and sustainable management of the national park
- to optimize the use of natural resources and improve land productivity in settled areas
- To resolve conflicts over use of natural resources, and
- To elaborate an institutional framework for natural resource management.

The overall objective is to guarantee a sustainable system of livelihoods for the local population and maintain integrity of the natural environment.

Arising from this complex mix of land use issues and problems, the report weaves recommendation around the following key elements:

- Integrated farming system that includes tree planting, animal rearing and crop production - considered desirable as it provides multiple benefits to the land constrained communities: improve farmland productivity. Promotion of zero grazing is highly recommended considering the scarcity of land in the area.
- Because of the steep terrain, this report recommends, digging of soil erosion control trenches and have them stabilized with grass and agroforestry trees. This will reduce surface run-off, increase water infiltration and improve soil fertility.
- Considering the acute shortage of firewood, the promotion of energy saving stoves will reduce energy demands. This however needs to be promoted alongside tree planting/agro forestry promotion.
- The absence of water in the area was noted to be one major source of illegal entry into the national park hence a source of community-PA (National Park) conflict. Promotion of rain water harvesting tanks is recommended as an immediate response. In future, this plan recommends rehabilitation of water channels and re-launch of Mutobo project.
- In recognition of land constraint, this plan recommends introduction or expansion of off-farm activities such as mushroom growing, bee keeping, and community and cultural tourism development: diversification of livelihood strategies.
- Finally, there is need to closely study the operation and appropriateness of UBUDEHE approach as an entry point and a platform for promotion and implementation of conservation and livelihood programmes.

During 2 stakeholders workshops organized on CBNRM implementation strategy it has been agreed that the execution of the aforementioned CBNRM programs should be entrusted with local communities at Umudugudu level with the joint facilitation of elected Umudugudu and Ubudehe committees and the technical assistance of specialized local NGOs and the backstopping of government technical extension staff based at sector level;

Some of existing external sources of financial assistance that could contribute to CBNRM funding have been identified such as ORTPN through revenue sharing programme, CDF, PAB, CARE, IGCP, UNICEF, PADBEL, HIP, HELPAGE etc

Having understood the institutional home of the plan and the primary stakeholders, it was imperative to start the implementation process by supporting the capacity building needs to kick off the implementation process.

Although it had earlier been planned that training needs assessment be undertaken to identify the training needs, little time, big number of Ubudehe committees around PNV and the acquired understanding of the CBNRM Plan implementation mechanism dictated that the training needs assessment process is not undertaken.

Instead, International gorilla Conservation Programme consulted the districts technical teams and common needs of capacity building among UBUDEHE committees at the lowest level of administrative organization have been identified.

The areas of training identified and in order of priority are:

1 Project management:

- Project proposal writing,
- budgeting,
- monitoring, evaluation and reporting of activities
- Financial management

2. Partnership

- Understanding the roles, responsibilities and characteristics of partners
- Understanding social, economic and environmental issues
- Understand Land, environment and forest laws in Rwanda
- Conflict analysis, resolution/management

3. Natural resources management and planning

- CBNRM approach, what is it how it works
- Understanding needs of communities
- Communities' role in NRM

4. Others trainings:

- Enterprise development
- Community tourism development and management
- Leadership and community organizing

5. Technical skills have been also identified such as:

- erosion control techniques,
- stoves construction
- household rainwater harvesting and management

- mushroom growing,
- modern beekeeping,

It was realised that there are different players willing to be coordinated through the district development planning process and the CBNRM plan and ready to contribute financial resources to the implementation of identified projects at the village level.

Lack of financial management skills in project implementation was identified as the key constraints on the part of community leaders to ensure that different stakeholders effectively engaged the local communities to address natural resources related intervention that affected the local people in their day to day activities.

It has been agreed that in the beginning the overriding need was to train the leaders at the *Umudugudu* level through the *Ubudehe* community mobilization process, in the project identification, planning implementation and evaluation with special emphasis on the financial management.

As youth and women play a big role in natural resource management it has been agreed that women and youth representatives being trained.

List of persons consulted

Name	Gender	Organization	Position
Kazungu Cyprien	M	Gataraga sector/ Musanze District	Executive secretary
Mugabukomeye Benjamin	M	ORTPN/PNV	Community conservation warden
Uwamahoro Julienne	F	Gahunga sector/Burera District	Executive secretary
Ntwari Eric	M	Gahunga sector/Burera District	Agronomist
Harelimana Innocent	M	Rubavu district	District Environment officer
Banamwana Leonard	M	Nyabihu district	District Environment officer
Mukanyandwi Pelagie	F	Nyange sector/Musanze District	Executive secretary
Ndagijimana Jean pierre	M	Musanze district	District Environment officer
Kamo Muhire Jean Pierre	M	Cyanika sector/Burera District	Agronomist
Kayitsinga Faustin	M	Rugarama sector/Burera District	Executive secretary
Charles Ruzindana	M	Musanze District	Director of planning