

## Project Update: January 2012

After sessions of the sensitisation of the local elected, the sessions of environmental education of the young schooled and non-schooled, the members of the associations based around the forest of Bururi. After initiatives of joined patrols in the forest by youngsters and forest rangers; another category of people that exploits the forest resources has been targeted and sensitised.

On 20<sup>th</sup> February 2012, a session of sensitisation of the illegal users of natural forest resources was organized in the office of the National Institute for the Environment and the Conservation of the Nature (INECN) in Bururi. This was the agenda: ecological and economic importance of the natural forest of Bururi, the analysis of the main threats and solutions, the change of the illegal users of natural resources of the forest of Bururi in friends and protectors of this forest. The participants to this session of sensitization were the pygmies named Batwas, the stockbreeders, the cutters of trees and straws, the sellers of firewood, and the extractors of the quarries. The exchanges were interactive and fruitful: the participants committed to stop to destroy this forest and to sensitise the other illegal users to change behaviour and act in favour of the sustainable conservation of the different biologic resources in this forest. They agreed themselves to meet again on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2012 to evaluate the steps accomplished in the protection of this forest.

It is the first time that a similar meeting between the illegal users of natural resources of the forest of Bururi with the authorities of this area has taken place to speak about collaboration between them.

The findings of this sensitisation session denote that the conflicts that often opposed these illegal operators and the forest rangers are going to make place to the collaboration. Since all social categories have been sensitised, the path is sufficiently now cleared to organize a communal day of the environment dedicated to the sustainable conservation of the natural forest reserve of Bururi.

