

Project Update: January 2013

January was characterised by three activities under the project awareness and integration of communities in the protection of natural forest reserve of Bururi.

On 7th January 2013 at 2 pm local time I held an awareness session for students on holidays living close to the natural forest reserve of Bururi. The theme of the day was the opportunities offered by the forest to improve the lives of people through the promotion of ecotourism based on the observation of chimpanzees. On this occasion, a documentary about the chimpanzees of Mahale National Park in Tanzania was followed by children.

The second activity that took place at 25th January 2013 was to sensitise community representatives grouped in six local partner associations. It was an opportunity to choose a group of five representatives who will work hand in hand with the chief warden to develop a memorandum of understanding. This MOU is an important tool to set up an effective collaboration with local community.

Another important activity was to make an advocacy for Batwa installed at the edge of the forest to improve their livelihoods. This advocacy was made to the World Bank. This institution promised to help next June to improve their livelihoods by funding income-generating activities and training for small professions.

