

Project Update: November 2012

In the framework of the implementation of the small grant of Rufford Small Grant Foundation, on 12th November 2012 a meeting was organised to raise awareness for the mayor of the town of Bururi and his close employees in the office of the Natural Forest of Bururi.

In addition to the mayor of the town of Bururi, two leaders of administrative area riparian of the forest of Bururi, a magistrate and three environmentalists attended the meeting. After a presentation on the values and services of the biodiversity of the natural forest of Bururi, especially the natural history of a small frog with long fingers (*Cardioglossa cyaneospila*) that is only seen in this forest and nowhere elsewhere in the world, these people have promised to be true lawyers of the forest each time, conveying messages calling for the preservation of the biodiversity of the natural forest of Bururi. The mayor of the town of Bururi is committed to working alongside the staff of the reserve in securing the legal limits of this important ecosystem.

In order to continue our awareness and integration of communities in the protection of the natural reserve of Bururi, this 11/20/2012, three journalists of three radio stations (National Radio, Isanganiro and Bonesha FM) have conducted reports on the biological and ecosystemic wealth of the forest. While calling, through their respective media, all stakeholders to invest in the protection of the forest, these journalists have promised each time to make media coverage of all activities involved in raising awareness and integration of communities. Indeed, the key to effective protection of this forest is the involvement of all stakeholders.

As part of the continuation of the project to raise awareness and integration of communities in the protection of Bururi forest, this 11/22/2012, from 9am to 12 pm, took place in the office of the natural forest of Bururi an awareness training on the socio economic and biological importance of natural forest of Bururi. This session was graced by the presence of the Technical Director in charge of protected areas in Burundi. It was also covered by a correspondent of the Burundian Press (ABP).

The session was divided into three steps: The first step was to follow a documentary on protected areas of Burundi and their biological and socioeconomic importance. The second was to attend a presentation by the Technical Director on the reasons which militated in favor of protecting this forest. After this presentation, debates have taken on the role of communities in the protection of this ecosystem.

The third and last step was a visit of the participants at the edge of the forest to make an observation of fauna and flora. Facing the biodiversity of this forest, specialists of the flora of the forest told to participants the socioeconomic and cultural uses of some plant species. The session ended with a commitment from all participants to meet in two months to assess the progress made by everyone in the protection of the forest.

