

Project Update: October 2012

A session awareness and environmental education took place for the environment club of Bururi High School, a riparian school of the natural forest of Bururi. This session was divided into three stages: The first stage was to follow a presentation on the socio-economic importance of the biodiversity of natural forest reserve of Bururi. Particular emphasis was placed on chimpanzees, little blue frog (*Cardioglossa cyaneospila*) that is only seen in this forest and not nowhere else in the world and a species of endemic rat to the Albertine Rift region that bears the name of the forest of Bururi (*Myosorex bururiensis*).

The second step was to follow a documentary film on the behavior of chimpanzees and their habituation to promote ecotourism.

The third step was to go for a walk in the forest to observe the flora and fauna. Each student who participated in this session received a box of materials for mathematics and two pens.

Young asked that a presentation on the biological and economic value of the natural forest Bururi be done inside the high school for all students of this institution. This request was promptly accepted.

Before returning to boarding school, young people have promised to use their free time for support in protecting this natural forest.

Meeting with Batwa community to raise their grievances

Together with the technical advisor to the administrator of the town of Bururi, we met the Batwa community in their site where they are gathered close to the natural forest of Bururi. The purpose of this meeting was to raise their concerns in order to make a plea that meets the real needs of this community for a long time marginalized. These Batwa expressed three pressing needs in order of priority: Acquisition of arable land, decent housing and small livestock for manure for the fields.



A representative of the community has been asked to go and plead with the administrator of the town of Bururi for the emergency grant and habitat for Batwa.

In addition, the technical adviser of the administrator, men and women of the Batwa community will be on the hill of Ngendo to see if this site would be conducive to accommodate this component of the Burundian nation. Transportation will be organized by

the project of awareness and integration of Communities in the conservation of the natural forest reserve of Bururi.

The needs expressed by the Batwa community will be forwarded to all stakeholders (administrators, governors, donors, etc).

On the sidelines of the meeting, the Batwa were invited to respect the natural forest of Bururi because its disappearance would have much negative impact.