

Project Update: January 2019

1. Executive Summary of the project's progress

The human-wildlife conflict mitigation project is aimed to look for what can be a sustainable solution for local people and baboons around NNP in Nyamagabe district; the first step of the project started in December 2018 to organise fields, farmers and equipment needed for the project to be ready for starting time January 2019. We did presentation of the project to the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) staff, local leaders at the sector and cell level where this project will operate and to discuss on how and where exactly we will make gardens for research.

From the discussion with Chief Park Warden Peter Ntthemuka, we suggested to create a garden at IPRC Kitabi known as a College for Conservation and Environmental Management and as a site for different researchers in the field of biodiversity and conservation. We decided to request a garden there because baboons are frequently seen at the site and this project will be a kind of research which will be very helpful for both side as the students will learn more from this project by working with us to monitor baboons see if they are consuming crops suggested or not.



Figure 1: Growing non-edible crops for Baboons around NNP.

1.1. Meeting with ANICOs

ANICOs (Animation in Conservation) are the people who help the government especially in conservation around Nyungwe to look for awareness of the local people, sensitise them about the importance of living in close proximity to the forest and to give direct information to the park management in case there are illegal activities or any kind of conflict created between wildlife and humans around the park. We meet them in order to let them be aware of the project and helped us to know the local farmers who will help in the implementation of this project and its potentialities of the human-wildlife conflict mitigation programmes.

2. Activities

2.1 Visits to the owners of chosen gardens.

Together with the ANICOs and an agronomist, we visited the chosen gardens in two different sectors and the owners to see if their location cope with our requirements. We discussed about the renting money for the land and organisation of the gardens prior to the next step of seedling preparation and growing of the trial species.



Figure 2: Baboons and I nearby the place of our garden at IPRC Kitabi

At IPRC Kitabi, we went to look for a place of our garden and at this place we found lots of baboons around, feeding on some grasses and with other many behaviours in their family structure. I was very excited

to see them again and every one in our team was wondering to know the reality and how close it will be with a place where we will put our garden at IPRC.

2.2 Nursery of the seeds

After renting land and finding proper places for gardens, we put seeds in the soil so that they will germinate then later be transplanted into gardens. Except carrots which are already grown in their plots other ones are in small place for nursery below.



3. Conclusion

This first step of the project held by gathering more information regarding on the location and organisation in general, as we are still organising plots in our gardens simultaneously with nursery, the next steps of the project will be planting crops in their gardens and start monitoring the movement for baboons with our crops. At Uwinkingi sectors, the executive secretary said that they have a high level of malnutrition and they were very happy to collaborate with us in the way of planting vegetables for health improvement and economic development for their families. We are very excited to see the achievement of this project so that we will come up with lots of innovations after getting productivities.