

## **Project Update: June 2022**

This is the first project update for the project entitled “Engaging and Empowering Communities for Sustainable Wildlife Management and Biodiversity Conservation of Nyungwe National Park (NNP), Rwanda. During these past 4 months, we have been conducting series of meetings with local authorities, schools' leaders, and community representatives and conducting pre-assessment survey within communities. We have also been introducing the project during different conferences and local community gatherings. We felt excited of how all the project stakeholders and beneficiaries have appreciated the project. The mayor of the district was so much excited for the project, and he reminded us that he is always there for us.

### **Introductory meeting with the local authorities, communities, religious leaders and school authorities,**

We have conducted an introductory visit to the district's authorities where we met with the mayor of the district and the Joint Action District Forum (JADF) Officer. This meeting was to introduce the project to the district, explaining in detail the project and setting the framework of our collaboration during the project implementation. It was also a good opportunity for us to explain different environment related ideas that the district has, and we took the opportunity to assess different areas in which we may intervene as this district is rich in biodiversity while there are not the environmental organisations working in this district. So, the mayor of the district was very much excited to have us in this district. We also met with some religious leaders and schools authorities and we were telling them about the project that we are about to start its implementation. They all were excited about the project, and they told me that they are ready to acquire and transfer the knowledge. We also attended the community work with communities and afterwards we were telling them about the project that we are implementing, and they were all excited about it. They promised us that whenever we will ask them to participate in any activity, they will attend.

### **Presentation about the expected project outcomes during different organized events**

I have presented the project's expected outcomes during different local and international events. I was talking about the links between biodiversity conservation and livelihoods; opportunities for Youth during the Regional Summit organised by Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN) Africa. During the summit, I was sharing with the participants how youth can contribute to the sustainable management of biological diversity and improve the communities' living standards. This was a hybrid summit and I have attended virtually.



Meeting with the Mayor of the district. © Jeannette Batamuliza.



Meeting with religious leader. © Jeannette Batamuliza.



Meeting with the school leader. © Jeannette Batamuliza.



Explaining the project to the religious leader. © Jeannette Batamuliza.



Attending Community work with local communities and introduce to them the project.  
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Photo of myself after field visit.