

CONCEPT NOTE

Transboundary stakeholders meeting at Nyungwe National Park

Background of the transboundary collaboration

The Nyungwe – Kibira Landscape forms the largest protected mountain forest block remaining in east central Africa. To ensure its sustainable management and conservation in 2008, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of transboundary collaboration has been signed between Rwanda Development Board (RDB) and Institut National pour l'Environnement et la Conservation de la Nature au Burundi (INECN) with the facilitation of Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

Since the signing of this MoU, different activities have been accomplished and many achievements were realized despite challenges. Among achievements, coordinated patrols have been done between rangers of Nyungwe and Kibira in order to mitigate threats along the border of Nyungwe and Kibira, Kibira National Park headquarter was renovated, field equipments were given to INECN through this collaboration and many other activities including chimpanzees habituation are ongoing. In order to sustain the transboundary collaboration, quarterly meetings are organized to discuss challenges encountered during the implementation of different activities and strategies to overcome them.

In November 2014, INECN and RDB are planning another quarterly meeting that will include provincial, district/communal authorities and law enforcement officers (army and police) to evaluate the current state of transboundary conservation and coordination of different government agencies between countries and within respective countries.

Objectives

1. To share with colleagues from Burundi the Rwanda's experience of the contribution of park management to the local and national economy,
2. To share the Rwanda's experience on the role of local authorities in Park conservation,
3. To discuss and agree on the roles and responsibilities of different organs in the management and conservation of Nyungwe-Kibira landscape,
4. To discuss and agree on strategies to mitigate transboundary threats

These objectives will be achieved through field visit and meeting.

Expected outcomes of the meeting

1. Clarification of the roles and responsibilities of different organs in the management and conservation of Nyungwe-Kibira Landscape
2. Put in place strategies to mitigate transboundary threats
3. Elaboration of further collaboration strategies between transboundary stakeholders

The delegation from Burundi will conduct field visit to different local communities projects around Nyungwe including Honey processing center and Cultural village. They will also visit Kitabi College of Conservation and Environmental Management (KCCEM) and hotels around Nyungwe to show them how park attract investors for tourism promotion and country development. They will be visiting also some tourist development activities at Uwinka. These visits will be facilitated by park staff and district authorities they will be visiting.

The meeting will be conducted after field visit. Key topics will be presented and discussed during the meeting:

- The role of PAs management and biodiversity conservation in Rwanda's economic development and poverty reduction.
- Challenges Trans boundary conservation Nyungwe- Kibira landscape.
- Local governance and PAs management.

At the end of these presentations there will be exchange on how to strengthen the transboundary collaboration to mitigate threats and mechanisms regular meetings and consultations, and sharing experiences between countries.

Planning of the meeting & field visit

This activity is planned to take place from 16th to 18th April 2014 at Nyungwe National Park. Nineteen people from Burundi will participate to this meeting and field visit including 4 governors of the province neighboring Kibira National Park, 9 district mayors of districts neighboring Kibira National Park, 2 military (region command), 2 senior staff from INECN and 2 journalists from national television of Burundi. After the field visit, the meeting which will take place on 18th April in Nyamagabe.

Draft itinerary of the field visit and Meeting

Date	Time	Activities	Comments
16 th April 2014	10:00	Leave Bujumbura through	

		Cibitoke, Overnight at Kamembe	
17 th April 2013	9:00	Visit of Nyungwe Forest Lodge, Nyungwe Top View Hill Hotel and Meet Education team at Gisakura.	
	12:00	Visit Uwinka interpretation center and canopy walkway	
	15:00	Visit of beekeeping union, Cultural village and KCEM	
	18:00	Overnight at Golden Monkey Hotel	
18 th April 2014	9:00	Meeting at Golden Monkey Hotel	
	13:00	Lunch	
	14:30	Depature	