

Project Update: February 2012

To assess the impact of the project of reinforcement of the integrity of the natural reserve of Bururi, the Technical Director in charge of the protected areas of Burundi and the mayor of the commune of Bururi accompanied by the rangers, the locals chiefs and some riparian populations led a mission of assessment of the respect of the limits of the natural forest of Bururi by the riparian population and the positive impact of the different activities of sensitisation and materialisation of the limit.

In over 7 hours, all these personalities walked several km of the perimeter of the forest to verify that the limit that had been established in the setting of this project has been respected by the riparian population. In general manner, the limits have been respected except two riparian persons that attempted to enlarge their land while passing the limits after the works of establishment of the limit. This time was another opportunity to sensitise the riparian populations on the biological and economic importance of this forest. It was also an occasion to show to the riparian populations how to perpetuate the requirements of the project.



Before the beginning of our project of reinforcement of the integrity of the natural forest of Bururi, we counted more than 10 litigious cases that opposed the riparian populations to the forest rangers. Now we count only two: this project brought a big contribution in the sustainable conservation of this forest.

On 9th March 2012, a meeting took place for environmental clubs in primary and secondary schools and secondary schools that surround the natural forest plus the technical adviser of the mayor of the commune of Bururi to prepare together the day dedicated to the protection of this reserve.

The Communal Day is set for 21st April 2012. Participants on this day will be young people from environmental clubs, the tambourinaires, the administrative authorities, and the riparian populations. The different environmental clubs and traditional dancers are going to present some games, dances, songs and poems around the theme" the forest is life, protect it ". The presentations will be punctuated by explanations on the biological wealth of this forest. Gifts of pens, notebooks and uniforms will be distributed to the young that will be exhibited themselves. The voluntary participants will also sign a pact of engagement for the contribution to the protection of the natural reserve of Bururi.