

Project Update: March 2013

Three important actions have characterised the project awareness and integration of communities in the protection of Natural Forest Reserve of Bururi:

- Awareness of the administrative authorities of Bururi at the highest level.
- Clearing the limit of the forest by the communities.
- Capturing illegally sawn boards by communities.

Madam the Governor of the province of Bururi in company of the heads of different services of the province have now decided to make the afternoon of each Friday a day consecrated to sport and protection of the environment. The start of this initiative was given as 15th March 2013. On this occasion, the Governor and officials made fitness walk in the forest that ended with the creation of a sports club for environmental protection. It has been an occasion to show the richness of flora and fauna of the natural forest and its ecosystem-value while inviting everyone to contribute to the protection of the forest ecosystem. During this trip, Madam the Governor of Bururi province has launched a call for all participants to be the ambassadors of this forest. All the participants promised that they will contribute in discouraging all acts against the forest.

In addition, members of local associations have captured boards illegally sawn in the reserve. They also carried out demarcation of the boundary of the reserve by brushing to remove any confusion limit between the protected area and private property.

This involvement of multi sectoral authorities and local populations mark a new era of participatory management of the forest. The support of Rufford Small Grant Foundation has brought a positive change in behaviour around this forest.



