

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL-JUNE 2023

### LAND AND LIVES

**Our mission:** Dignity for all, food security and environmental protection

**An area of 20.6 ha restored and a perimeter of 13 km delimited in and around the Kibira**

This is part of the Kibira project, a sanctuary for peace and nature conservation. 13 km of Kibira have been demarcated with 15,115 *maesopsis eminii* plants, while over 20 ha of Kibira have been restored with 47,000 *prunus africana* plants. On June 1, 2023, Communities of Hope, Associations Burundaise pour la protection de l'environnement, Association Femmes et environnement du Burundi, United Nations Capital Development Fund, in conjunction with the administrative and financial advisor of Kayanza province and the Muruta communal administrator, visited the restored and demarcated sites in the Kibira. Although the 20 ha of the Kibira have been restored, it was noted that there is still a need to continue the restoration of this natural Kibira forest, which has suffered remarkable degradation in recent years.



### The Kibira project and its impact on inter-ethnic relations: the exclusion of the Batwa decreases from Muruta

In the KORANUMWETE association, with 32 members including 14 Batwa, social cohesion is undoubtedly remarkable. As MIBURO Jean, the association's president, put it: "In the association, a girl from the Batwa community has married a young man from the Hutu ethnic group, a sign that ideas are about to change. He added that through mushroom cultivation, ideas are changing in society. People are living together and even sharing meals, something that didn't happen before.



Mushroom harvesting



Newly-weds : a mutwa and a hutu



Mrs Asterie, expressing her joy

Asterie BIMENYIMANA from the KORANUMWETE association, supported by the Kibira project, a sanctuary for peace and nature conservation, testifies that with the money received through the project, she was able to buy a cow, two pigs and a sheep, which already has two lambs. So she has organic manure for her fields". She goes on to testify that for the 150,00 FBU invested in potato cultivation, the harvest was sold for 550,000 FBU.



### Two buildings at the Mwokora mini-park rehabilitated

As part of the above-mentioned Kibira project, two buildings in the Mwokora mini-park have been rehabilitated. These are, respectively, the building that will serve as an administrative block and the one that will house the canteen and a cultural school. This school will have a positive impact on young Burundians' knowledge of the natural heritage \_ la Kibira. The school will enable contemporary artistic creation, recent history and traditional cultural heritage (oratory and music, stories and tales) to serve the challenges of sustainable development, long-term social cohesion, peace and reconciliation.

*Communities of Hope implements its activities through the following partners: UNCDF(UNITED NATION Capital Development Fund), Community of faith, Melissa and Log Rod Foundation, UNIPROBA (Unissons-nous pour la Promotion des Batwa), AFEB (association femme et environnement du Burundi),KIOKA (Kids Of Katiopa), ABN (Association Burundaise pour la protection de la Nature), Shekinah school, Kwizera Academy, Ecole Fondamentale Muyange II*

## The administration's involvement in the mechanism for setting up support committees to protect the kibira makes its evolution a pleasure.



Before the kibira protection support committees were set up, awareness was raised among the local administration. The aim is to create solid bonds of human-Kibira cohabitation. With this in mind, AFEB's strategy for setting up these committees begins with awareness-raising, and 95 members of the local administration, including 27 from Bukinanyana, 24 from Kabarore and 44 from Muruta, have been trained and sensitized as positive action groups. They were made aware of the importance of the Kibira and the Kibira protection committees. They were also made aware of the methodology envisaged for the success of this activity. It should be noted that members of the local administration have an important role to play in raising public awareness.

## The 3 comic strips produced as part of the Kibira project will help raise awareness of the need to protect Kibira.

The Kibira project, a sanctuary for peace and nature conservation, has produced 3 comic strips to help visualize the importance of Kibira's cultural heritage. These comic strips will help raise public awareness of the cultural importance of Kibira. As part of the same project, various posters on the historical and cultural elements of Kibira have been produced. All these initiatives are aimed at protecting the Kibira, but also at promoting the tourist attractions offered by the Kibira forest.



## SCHOOLS OF HOPE

**Our mission:** To provide quality training for children from underprivileged families, nutritional support and overall guidance.



### Second term results for Kwizera academy students are encouraging

Kwizera academy, like other schools in Burundi, announced its second-term results on April 7, 2023. The school's pass rate was 76%. This is an encouraging rate for the school in general and for parents in particular.

It's worth noting that the school has a well-functioning catering program. Pupils are fed twice a week. The school strives to provide learners with conditions conducive to learning.

## STRONG START

**Our mission:** to ensure the physical and intellectual development of every child from the moment of conception



### A uterine cancer screening campaign and ultrasound program were carried out at the Laura shook Health Center.

In this program organized on June 13, 2023 at the "Laura shook Health Center, 58 women living in the Mitakataka zone, commune Bubanza and Province BUBANZA benefited from a cervical cancer screening program, while 25 women benefited from an ultrasound program.

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