



NILE BASIN DISCOURSE FORUM IN RWANDA

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PRESIDENT PAUL KAGAME URGED THE NILE RIPARIAN STATES TO COOPERATE

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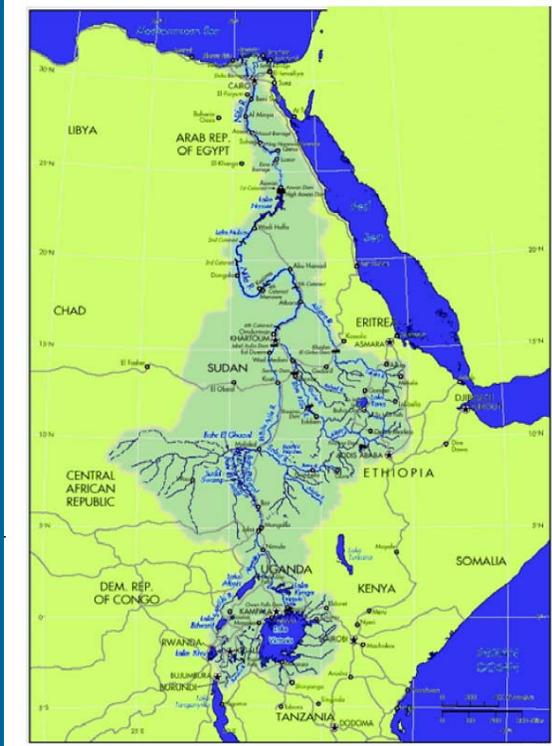
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President Paul Kagame urged the Nile riparian states to enhance cooperation. The President made the call on 22 February, 2007 during the Nile Day celebrations held under the theme: 'Enhanced Cooperation on the Nile for Peace and Prosperity'. "Rwanda's position is clear: we stand for cooperation and shared benefits for better investments in many socio-economic developments," Kagame told delegates attending the conference.



He urged members to strive for the establishment of a permanent commission that will manage the waters of the Nile in an equitable and sustainable way for the development of the 300 million people in the riparian countries.

He further noted that this population is projected to double by the year 2025. "This is a challenge that needs us to establish a mechanism to overcome the pressure, and this calls for strong regional institutions and a clear Nile water system to manage water resources efficiently and effectively," the President said. **To Page 3**



NBI countries include Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Eritrea currently participates as an observer and stated her intention to participate fully soon.

“SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN AFRICA.”

The eighth African Union (AU) Summit took place at the UN Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 22-30 January 2007. The Summit included sessions of: the Permanent Representatives Committee, from 22-23 January; the Executive Council, from 25-26 January; and the AU Assembly, from 29--30 January. The main themes of the Summit were "Science, Technology and Scientific Research for Development" and "Climate Change in Africa."

At the close of its meeting, the Executive Council had adopted 33 decisions. The Assembly of Heads of State and Government agreed to 31 decisions and six declarations, many of which related to the Summit's themes, including decisions on: the report of the Extraordinary Conference of the African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology; climate change and development; Avian Flu; the establishment of a Pan-African Intellectual Property Organization; the implementation of the Green Wall for the Sahara Initiative; and enhancing UN-AU Cooperation. **To Page 3**

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THE RESEARCH AND INVESTMENTS MADE ON CELL PHONES OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS

Ankara, Turkey — On Thursday 18 January, Turkey and the World Water Council (WWC) signed the official agreement for the organisation of the 5th World Water Forum, to be held in Istanbul from 15 to 22 March 2009.

At the signing ceremony in Ankara, Dr. M. Hilmi Güler, Turkish Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, stated that 15,000 people from 150 countries are expected to attend the 5th Forum to discuss issues and solutions regarding water in the world. Emphasizing the crucial role of water for people, life, energy and balance in the world, Dr. Güler reported that serious measures are being taken in Turkey in this respect. He cited the example of a recent law on renewable energy in Turkey and qualified it as an important step, or even a milestone. Dr. Veysel Eroglu, Director General of State Hydraulic Works, the organization that will lead the Forum preparation, stated his conviction that the 5th World Water Forum will mark an evolution, referring to “before Istanbul” and “after Istanbul.”

Meanwhile, Mr. Paul Reiter, Chair of the selection committee of the World Water Council, based in Marseilles, expressed his satisfaction that the 5th World Water Forum would be held in Turkey: “Turkey has demonstrated that it is fully committed to organizing a successful Forum and we are confident that the preparatory process will lead to a very productive event.” The two-year preparatory process involving representatives from numerous international institutions and ministries will supply new and relevant content for debate and proposals and will be launched on the 19th and 20th of March in Istanbul.

The President of the World Water Council, Mr. Loïc Fauchon, emphasized that water should be a greater priority. “We wish that all the research and investments made on cell phones over the past 10 years would be made for water too! We can survive without cell phones, but we cannot survive without water.” The WWC President also added that increasing population, pollution of water resources and the increased need for water due to climate change constitute the three main water-related problems facing the world today.

The World Water Forum, which is organized by the WWC every three years in collaboration with the authorities of the host country, is the largest international event in the field of water. The 4th World Water Forum was held in Mexico in March 2006.

NBDF-Rwanda Website

NBDF-Rwanda has already established a website (www.nbdfwanda.org.rw) from which all general and detailed information on our activities, achievements, future and past developmental plans can be accessed. The website also comprises public and membership forums as well as chatroom, anyone however, has the chance to register or access subscription to our activities and involvement.

ARECO-RWANDA NZIZA SUCCESS STORY

.....BY Dancilla Mukakamari, National Coordinator

Since 1980, Mukura forest reserve lost about 50% of its superficies due to human activities (encroachment, mining, fire wood collection, bee keeping, etc) and the degradation increased due to the 1994 war and genocide effects.

The reserve was identified as national reserve area since 1951 with 3000 ha. The remaining size is now about 1597 ha. Before 1994 the forest was under the responsibility of the Ministry in charge of forests in collaboration with local administration (District) which provided for example guards for its protection. After 1994, it was not easy for the District to protect the forest. Before ARECO intervention local communities was not well aware on the importance of the conservation of Mukura reserve and any body was there to sensitize them and then to undertake with them some activities.



In Picture: Sides no destroyed of Mukura forest and superficies deforested .

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SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT” AND “CLIMATE CHANGE IN AFRICA.

.....From Page I

The Assembly agreed to declare 2007 as the launching year of building constituencies and champions for science, technology and innovation in Africa, and endorsed the climate change plan entitled 'Climate Information for Development Needs: An Action Plan for Africa – Report and Implementation Strategy'.

This briefing note summarizes some of the key statements and presentations from the meeting, as well as decisions and declarations agreed to by the Executive Council and Assembly that relate to the Summit's themes.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AWARDS: In conjunction with the PRC meeting, a set of S&T awards, aimed at increasing the number of scientists in Africa by stimulating interest in science among young people, were announced on Tuesday. One such major awards scheme, to be funded by the AU Commission, is the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere AU Scholarship Scheme, which seeks to award over the next six months 50 scholarships for studying bachelor degrees in African universities, before expanding to cover postgraduate studies. Another award scheme, to be established by the AU and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), aims to reward the best innovation that addresses problems affecting Africa.

THE NILE DAY CELEBRATIONS IN RWANDA

The Nile day was celebrated on 22 Feb 2007. The ceremonies were divided into three main parts: The speeches at Prime holdings, the basket ball match, cultural dances and other entertainment at Amahoro National Stadium, and the Cocktail at Prime holdings. The morning session at Prime holdings saw the presence of high ranking officials from the government of Rwanda including the president himself.

There were also Nile Com members from different countries. The donors' representative, David Grey from World Bank stressed the importance of cooperation on the common resource like the Nile and reiterated the development partners continued support to this endeavor.

The Minister for Water and Mines from Rwanda, also Nile Com member welcomed all the invitees and wished them a happy stay in the country of a thousand hills. The Nile Com Chairperson, Minister of Water from Burundi expressed the importance of the Nile for the riparian people, and the ownership of the resource: every country claim to have a source of the Nile, which shows the ownership and the importance given to that common resource. "But we should not stress on who owns the source, but how can we cooperate effectively to benefit from that common resource." Added the Nile Com Chair. The Nile com chair mentioned NBD as one of the forums engaging with NBI, and stressed the importance of working with different stakeholders.

She called upon the negotiating committee to speed up the negotiation process "It's now almost 10 years that we are discussing this cooperative framework, this is a very long time and we don't have any explanation to our people" The Nile Com chair from Burundi stated.

The president of Rwanda, Paul Kagame, who was the guest of honor, reminded all the present personalities that it's high time to think about the equitable management of the Nile waters. "We have to mobilize political commitment to manage this important resource" said president Kagame.

He said that Rwanda stands for cooperation that leads to investment and shared benefits.

The ceremonies continued with a basket ball match and then a cocktail at the end of the day.

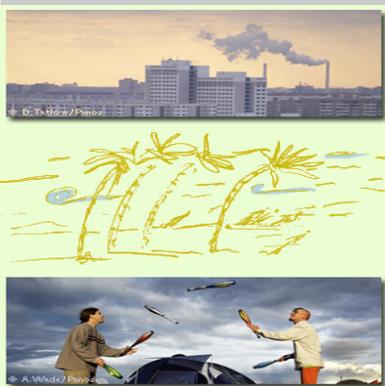
PRESIDENT KAGAME URGED THE NILE RIPARIAN STATES

.....From page I

Participants were tipped on target choices, including mobilizing for political commitment and resources.

David Grey of the World Bank, who also represented development partners, pledged the Bank's support, especially in the negotiations. Grey said that the World Bank has allocated one billion dollars for the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) programmes in 2007 and 2008, which will also help in the completion of cooperation negotiations. NBI has been working as a transition institution for the last 8 years.

Nile Day, the first of its kind, is expected to raise awareness of the public regarding the NBI and how stakeholder countries can benefit from its projects.



The climate is changing. The average temperature in Europe has increased by almost 1 °C over the last 100 years, and scientists predict that it will increase by a further 2 °C to 6.3 °C by 2100.

Experts estimate that, by 2071, one summer out of every two will be as hot as that of 2003, when at least 22 000 people in Europe died prematurely.

All of the human activities that emit greenhouse gases are one of the causes of climate change. So as to limit these changes, it is therefore a matter of urgency to reduce emissions.

The increased concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere since the Industrial Revolution has already significantly warmed the earth. This rapid increase is bringing about changes that could have a serious impact on our economy and society, such as rising sea levels, increasingly frequent extreme weather conditions, the shifting of cultivable areas and the disappearance of species that are incapable of adapting to changing temperatures.

ARECO SUCCESS STORYfrom Page 4

The population pressure is very high with between 450 and 700 people by square km and farming is the main activity on less than 0.5 ha per family. Living conditions are very difficult especially for women and children who are affected by polygamy practices in terms of household's responsibilities (about 50% of women under polygamy). Children education is very low (about 20% don't attend primary schools and 80% of them are girls). The average of household monthly incomes was estimated at 3 \$ US.

Project approach for local community involvement

With the financial support of the Netherlands Committee of IUCN and the collaboration of Local Administration (Province, Districts and Sectors), the local communities and the Ministry in charge of Environment and Forestry, ARECO initiated a conservation project of Mukura forest reserve since September 2003.

The main approach undertaken by ARECO was to promote community involvement for the sustainable conservation of Mukura forest reserve through:

- Awareness raising and informal education through environmental clubs establishment in schools and local communities especially women and youth out of schools in the surrounding zone of Mukura reserve. Environmental clubs constitute the best channel of information and knowledge sharing and dissemination within the communities.
- Support of community development activities in the surrounding zone of Mukura reserve as Identified by the needs assessment survey organised at the beginning of the project. Tree Planting and incomes generating activities are promoted through environmental clubs within schools and communities.
- Partnership promotion and funds mobilisation for sustainability. It was very important to mobilise other partners including donors, research institutions to give their contribution to support Mukura reserve conservation activities. For example the Green Belt Movement from Nairobi supported tree production a 1000 \$ US in 2004. UNDP Micro grant program assisted women clubs for tree production and planting with about 24 766 \$ US for 2006 to 2008.

Achievements and expected results

- Environmental clubs were established into 11 primary schools and surrounding sectors for women clubs and youth;
- About 300000 trees was produced and planted by local communities and schools during 2004-2006;
- About 400 000 of indigenous, agro forestry and fruits trees are being produced by women and will be planted by women by April 2007. About 210 000 plum fruits trees (pruniers du Japon) will contribute to better livelihoods. This activity employs 1600 women in Mukura and Rusebeya Sectors of Rutsiro District. They benefit a daily salary of about 1 \$ US and they will share incomes from plum fruits exploitation (about 10 \$US/ month/person).
- Awareness material production and development: a documentary on local community involvement for sustainable natural resources management will be produced and disseminated .



In the picture: Tree dissemination/ local community level and Production of plum fruit trees by women



In the picture: Tree production and dissemination within schools

**THE INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM ON TRANSBOUNDARY WATER MANAGEMENT
IN THE LAKE VICTORIA REGION**

.....BY Frank HABINEZA

The international programme in Transboundary Water Management in the Lake Victoria Region was organised by Ramböll Natura AB and Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI). Mr. Habineza Frank, the NBDF-Rwanda national coordinator attended the training.

The African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS) implemented the regional module of the programme. Financial support was provided by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

The programme facilitation team consisted of Programme Manager Mr Bjorn Hansson (Ramböll Natura), Mr Ambrose Oroda, Regional Training Programme Coordinator (ACTS), Mr Anton Earle (AWIRU and CiPS) and Dr Anthony Turton (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, CSIR). At Ramböll Natura, Ms Mia Zacco was the Administrative Coordinator.

The training programme was attended by 30 participants from the region who currently are engaged in transboundary water issues. The participants' experience of transboundary water management issues was a key input to the training programme.

The programme consisted of five modules. Modules 1, 3 and 5 were conducted on a part-time basis in the participants' respective home institutions. Modules 2 and 4 implied full-time work at workshops in Kenya and Rwanda and in Sweden, respectively.

SUMMARY OF WHAT THE PROGRAMME OFFERED

Participants in the training programme

A facilitated format to learn from:

- Fellow programme participants
- Field excursions
- National and International scholars in TWM
- Literature, websites and case-studies;

Support for the IP and individual interests;

Furthered networks within the TWM field

Certificate for participation in the TWM Training Programme.

Outcome of the training programme

A furthered understanding of TWM-related legal, practical, financial and political considerations and of opportunities and challenges for improved TWM.

How national and international water politics interact and provide opportunities for water and benefit sharing.

Experience of TWM cases.

A finalised Individual Project (IP), furthering each participants engagement in TWM and a project Proposal has been prepared and submitted to the World Bank fulfilling this IP.

A network of likeminded professionals.

Received a lot of books and magazines, a detailed list is available on the website (www.nbdfwanda.org.rw)

MAKING DESERTS GREEN

.....News from *THE HUMANITY*

In the dust-choked, barren region of Guidan Bakoye, Niger, millions of trees are beginning to flourish thanks to local farmers whose simple methods for planting and nurturing trees are paying dividends not least in the improved rainfall the region that is now covered with 7.4 million new trees is receiving. Recent satellite images have shown that Niger is far greener than it was 30 years ago and the vegetation is densest in some of the most densely-populated regions of the country, proving that each individual can do their bit to protect the environment.



The successes local people have achieved by the simple action of planting trees proves that desertification can be remedied and soil fertility improved through relatively small changes in human behaviour. Once farmers realised that encroaching desertification and receding tree cover are inextricably linked, instead of weeding-out saplings from their land as they had done previously, they began to plant around them, sowing millet, sorghum, peanuts and beans in the vicinity of the saplings. A change in the law Turning Back the Desert also means that instead of being owned by the state (thereby giving no incentive for farmers to protect trees), any trees on a farmer's land now belong to the farmer, who can sustainably crop the tree to add to the family income.

Small steps in redressing ecological imbalances have huge benefits for this struggling region and empower local people to see themselves as prime agents for positive change.

THE NILE WATERS CRISIS

The Nile Waters Agreement (NWA) over the allocation of its waters between Egypt and Great Britain (which represented Uganda, Kenya, Tanganyika [now Tanzania] and the Sudan) was concluded on November 7, 1929 in Cairo by an exchange of letters between the Egyptian Prime Minister and the British High Commissioner in Egypt.

The agreement allocated 48 billion cubic meters per year to Egypt as its acquired right and 4 billion cubic meters per year to the Sudan.

The allocations were later increased to 55.5 billion cubic meters and 18 billion cubic meters, respectively, under a 1959 bilateral agreement between these two countries that allowed for the construction of the Aswan Dam. Apart from Ethiopia, which had a government in place, the NWA was made before the other Nile Basin countries gained their independence.

According to the Middle East Research Institute, the agreement stated that no works would be undertaken on the Nile, its tributaries, and the Lake Basin that would reduce the volume of the water reaching Egypt. It also gave Egypt the right to "inspect and investigate" the whole length of the Nile to the remote sources of its tributaries in the Basin.

But poor climatic conditions coupled with a rising population growth have led to famine among the countries that share river Nile. And the most viable solution is to extract water from the Nile.

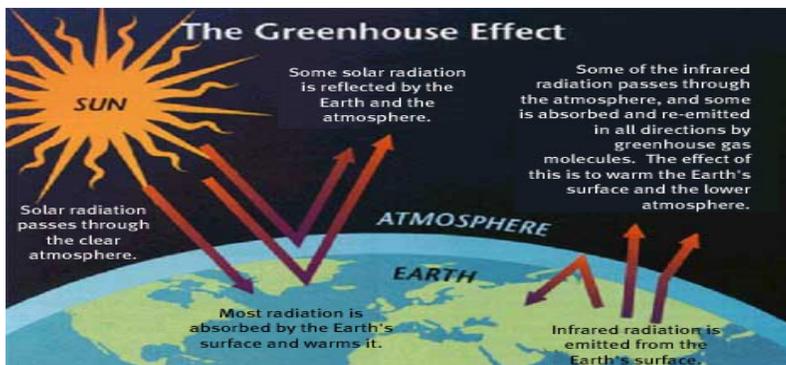
However, Egypt considers any change in the agreement as a strategic threat and has repeatedly threatened to use all means at its disposal to prevent the violations of the agreement.

THE EARTH IS HEATING ABNORMALLY

The earth is warming at an unnatural pace, but this isn't the only climate change that has multiple industries re-assessing their political strategy. As the debate over global warming legislation heats up, the industries that could be most affected by the outcome are taking the temperature of the new Democratic Congress.

"Because [the industries] have to acknowledge they're operating in a new environment, they'll court whomever they have to get a voice at the table," said Bryan Mignone, a science and technology fellow at the Brookings Institution. "Government affairs people will move with the winds in Washington. If an issue on the Hill affects them, they'll pay very close attention to it and shift their strategy."

In February, an international panel of scientists released a report concluding that global warming is caused by human activity and, if human-made emissions of greenhouse gases continue at the current rates, the planet can expect life-threatening and economically devastating events. A new report from the Bush administration released earlier this month predicts that greenhouse emissions by the United States will grow as quickly in the next decade as they did the previous decade.



COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HEARING CHARTER

The State of Climate Change Science 2007:

.....Series 2

Key Findings of the 2007 Working Group I Report

On February 2, 2007 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released the first section of its fourth assessment report, entitled "The Physical Science Basis of Climate Change."

This first section of the IPCC fourth assessment report builds upon information contained in the previous reports. It updates information from the third assessment report based upon research conducted over the past six years. Uncertainties in some areas have been reduced (e.g. quantitative estimates of radiative forcing). Climate models have improved, and expanded observations, data and information have enabled the IPCC to increase the level of confidence in some earlier findings (e.g. attribution of warming to human-induced increases in greenhouse gas concentrations). In other areas (e.g. changes in frequency of tropical cyclones) uncertainties remain and further research is needed to determine what patterns, if any, exist.

Despite remaining uncertainties, the fourth assessment report represents a significant expansion in our knowledge of the influence of human activity on the earth's climate. It is almost 30 years since the first international scientific conference on climate suggested that human activity could be impacting the earth's climate. This report confirms the original suspicions raised by scientists participating in the 1979 climate conference as has every report of the IPCC from the first report in 1990 to the present.

The 10 key findings in the 2007 report are:

- Atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases have increased significantly due to human activities since 1750 due to fossil fuel use and land-use change.
- Our understanding of human-induced influences on climate has improved since the 2001 Assessment. There is now very high confidence that Earth is warming.
- Evidence that Earth is warmer includes: increase in global average air temperature and ocean temperature, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global average sea level.
- Long-term changes in climate have been observed including: changes in Arctic temperatures and ice, changes in the amounts of precipitation, ocean salinity, and wind patterns and changes in extreme weather events such as droughts, heavy precipitation, heat waves, and intensity of hurricanes and typhoons.

To be continued in April; Issue 4.

WHAT IS CLIMATE CHANGE

.....By John GAKUMBA (BSc in FST-KIST)

Climate change is considered to be one of the most serious threats to sustainable development, with adverse impacts expected on the environment, human health, food security, economic activity, natural resources and physical infrastructure. The changes are evident in many local parts of the great lakes region; people starve in places where we used to have more than enough to eat. Rains get scarce, temperatures increasing, infestations of various species of disease vectors and many more. More than enough of these indicators are the biggest threat to humanity.

Global climate varies naturally, but scientists agree that rising concentrations of anthropogenically produced greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere are leading to changes in the climate. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the effects of climate change have already been observed, and scientific findings

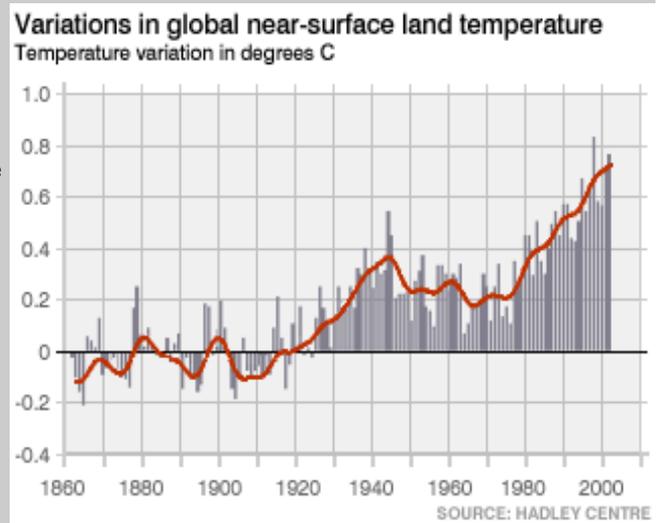
indicate that precautionary and prompt action is necessary.

While mitigation has traditionally been the pivotal issue for many climate change experts, adaptation to the effects of climate change is now acknowledged as necessary for responding effectively and equitably to the impacts of both climate change and climate variability. In recent years, adaptation has become a key focus of the scientific and policy-making communities and is now a major area of discussion in the multilateral climate change process. Adaptation has been implicitly and explicitly linked with development-focused action, particularly as the IPCC has underscored that developing countries are disproportionately vulnerable to climate change and lack adaptive capacity. Development processes and trajectories will be affected by the rate of climate change, and this is especially important for developing countries with growing economies. Particular attention will need to be paid to the management of water and other natural resources, agricultural activities, and the sources and generation of energy.

What can be recommended to help our communities during this era of climate change:

Our tomorrow will only depend on our friendly attitude towards our mother nature and the environment. Below is an adopted list that may help to control and assure that we have a chance in our hands to deal with climate change effects and occurrences:

- including an element of growth in the definition of adaptation so communities are not forever caught up in the poverty cycle;
- incorporating a human rights perspective into the process;
- raising the status of women in projects;
- focusing on low-cost appropriate technology;
- not reinventing the wheel;
- promoting multi-stakeholder dialogues around climate change adaptation by development practitioners;
- not losing sight that mitigation must remain a priority;
- producing marketable goods and services rather and lessening dependence on donors for assistance;
- developing easy-to-use guidelines for organizations;
- identifying what to fund and how much it will cost;
- linking NGOs with research institutes and institutions of higher learning;
- lobbying the ministries of education to include adaptation in school curricula and in teacher training programmes;
- improving coordination and partnerships among and between various stakeholders;
- informing and educating local communities about climate change and its impacts;
- addressing issues of equity and redistribution of resources, more funding for action research and small-scale funding to replicate strategies;
- etc.



To be continued in next issue

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14	Fondation Nzambazamariya Vénérande	MUKANTABANA Crescence	mukacresc@yahoo.fr	Gender Child Rights Protection
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17	CLADHO (Human Rights Umbrella Organisation)	UWANYIRIGIRA Agnes	572740	Human rights umbralla organisation
18	JOC (Jeunesse Ouvrière Catholique Garçons)	KALISA Ernest	kalisajoc@yahoo.com	Catholic Youth Promotion
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21	AREDI (Association Rwandaise pour l Environnement et le Developpement Intégré)	SIKUBWABO Adélard	aredi@rwanda.l.com tekesik@hotmail.com	Environmental protection and Integra- ted Development
22	COSYLI (Conseil des Syndicats Libres au Rwanda)	TWAYIGIRA Jean Léonard	Tél : 522585, 08479390	Workers Union
23	CCOAIB (Conseil de Concertation des Organisations d Appui aux Initiatives de Base)	Prisca	ccoaib@rwanda.l.com	Dialogue, capacity building and exchange for local initiatives
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25	BENISHYAKA	GAHIMA Betty	benasoc@rwanda.l.com	Gender Support to Women and vulner- able Children
26	ARJ (Association Rwandaise des Journalistes)	SEMUKEYA Martin	msemukanya@yahoo.fr	Promotion of professional Journalism in Rwanda
27	INADES FORMATION	KABAYIZA Eustache	584713	Rural development
28	(RWEPI) Rwandese Health Environment Project Initiative	James RUBAKISIBO	Tel: 08856116	Environmental health and protection
29	CAURWA (Conseil des Autoctones au Rwanda)	SEBISHWI Juvénal	juvesebi@yahoo.fr	Promotion of Indigenous People