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REPORT ON NBDP RWANDA VISIT AND TREE PLANTING ACTIVITY IN GASHORA-BUGESERA:



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Introduction

The exposure and vulnerability of the sub-Saharan region to the projected climate change impacts is unparalleled. A key challenge for adaptation is to build the technical, analytical and institutional capacity needed for integrating climate change risks and opportunities into national development planning and decision-making.

To address this challenge the joint UNEP-UNDP programme CC DARE, provides demand-driven, flexible and rapid financial and technical support to 15 Sub-Saharan countries. The support is made available to improve the ability of sub-Saharan African countries to remove barriers and create opportunities for integrating climate change adaptation into national development planning and decision-making frameworks. The programme is designed to complement and strengthen ongoing and planned nationally based climate change adaptation and risk management in the region.

In Rwanda, the climate variations of the last decade came to add to the major socio-ecological disruptions taking place, such as deforestation, desertification, famine due to prolonged drought, overuse of land and natural resources, a rural settlement which is very scattered and a high level of poverty.



A scene of some of the dry areas that were planted with trees by NBDF Rwanda-CC DARE project in Bugesera-Rwanda: photo by John Gakumba

On 21st November, 2009, as the rest of Rwanda was concluding the tree planting week, NBDF Rwanda with support from the Joint UNEP-UNDP CC DARE project planted at least 7000 thousand trees in Gashora of Bugesera District in the Eastern Province of Rwanda bordered by Burundi.

The tree planting exercise was attended by more than 30 NBDF Rwanda member NGO representatives and participants from RENGOF, Bugesera Vice Mayor in charge of welfare and economic development **Mr. Rukundo Julius**, Executive Secretary of Gashora **Mr. Ndayisabye Viateur**, Agronomists, Steering

committee members led by **Mr. Jean Baptiste** and staff of NBDF Rwanda as well as local community members from Gashora area.

Second to the tree planting activity was a visit to various affected areas by impacts of climate change with main emphasis on famine caused by reduced rainfall amounts in the areas around.



Residents in the tree planting exercise in Gashora sector: photo by John Gakumba

The physical appearance of the vegetation cover seems to be recovering during the rain seasons that seem to be improved by more tree planting in all the Bugesera district.

Speeches given:

The speeches were brief and with very keen key messages to the communities as follows.

The NBDF Rwanda National Coordinator highlighted that it is every citizen's role to plant as many trees as possible to help reduce amount of emissions of carbon in the atmosphere. The amount of carbon in the atmosphere from various human activities that increase emissions in the atmosphere have disrupted the chemical compositions in space, henceforth, leading to increased global warming.

Targeting a greener environment through planting of trees will combat the effects of climate change in areas such as Gashora Sector of Bugesera District. Mr. Gakumba called for cooperation of communities of Bugesera to promote these initiatives.



Mr. Ndayisabye Viateur addressing the gathering residents after the tree planting exercise; looking on are Mr. Jean Baptiste in white cap, Mr. Gakumba John in brown t-shirt and on his left is the Vice Mayor of Bugesera District in charge of welfare and economic development Mr. Rukundo Julius.

The Vice Mayor in charge of Welfare and Economic Development, Mr. Rukundo Julius said that “people of Gashora know very well the effects of drought and he however requested them to emulate the day’s effort rendered by Nile Basin Discourse Forum in Rwanda”. He also thanked the funders who have kept the spirit and thought of such a community in their development agenda.

Mr. Gashumba Damascene, who spoke on behalf of the Nile Basin Discourse Member NGOs reminded the Gashora residents that “He who gives you a tree gives life, in this regard, everybody should be responsible for the trees we are planting and the ones that have been existing”.

In a closing remark for the Day’s activities as the facilitator of the exercise, the Executive Secretary of Gashora **Mr. Ndayisabye Viateur**, commended the work and effort done by Nile Basin Discourse Forum in Rwanda, its NGO members, Staff and partners for the wonderful initiative taken to support the government’s effort of national development and environmental protection.

Later NBDF Rwanda hosted its members and the present local administration leaders present at PASSADENA for refreshments to crown the day’s exercise.

In conclusion, NBDF Rwanda and CC DARE’s effort in helping communities in Gashora Sector of Bugesera District was a success. Community leaders and residents as well as members of NBDF Rwanda participated with very exciting effort. Over 7000 trees were planted by both the residents and visitors from NBDF Rwanda member NGOs and partners.

