

NILE BASIN DISCOURSE FORUM IN

RWANDA

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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ISSUE 2

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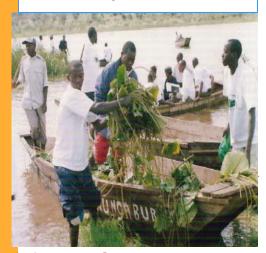
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THE RIVER NILE TRANSBOUNDARY REGION

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.

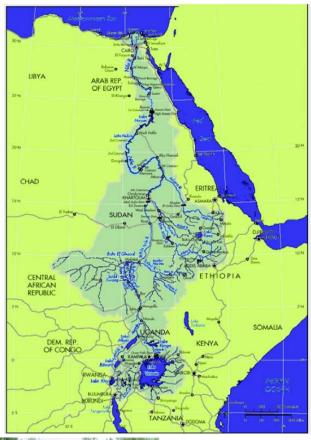
Community involvement



In the picture: Community initiative with NBDF-Rwanda during water hyacinth removal from lake Chwohoha near the Rwanda-Burundi Boarder.

RNBDF MISSION

The Nile Basin Discourse Forum in Rwanda seeks to ensure that its development goals are achieved by assisting the constructive engagement of civil society in the NBI through development of knowledge, grater capacity, better networking and stronger linkages at all levels.





In picture: The Hon. Minister of State for Lands and Environment, HAJABAKIGA Patricia together with the Bugesera community to celebrate the Environmental Day. During this celebration, shrubs were planted in Bugesera to help in combating the relief wash away due to heavy erosions. NBDF-Rwanda, among its milestone activity plans, it emphasizes in community development through environmental protection and assurance.

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The CCI Coordinator

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THE NBDF-RWANDA STRATEGIC PLAN 2006-2010

This Strategic Plan is the first of its kind since the creation of NBDF in 2003. In fact, it is the result of NBD's setting up process that started in 2001 from the Geneva Conference, during the International Cooperation Consortium on the Nile followed by other local NGO meetings, especially the one held in Cairo in 2002 with support and facilitation of the International Union for Nature Conservation, the World Wildlife Fund and the World Bank. During those meetings, the Civil Society organisations adopted a plan of action and set up a permanent office for the International Forum on the Nile Basin in Entebbe/Uganda.



Members of the Nile Basin Discourse carrying out a consultative workshop to frame and design structure of activity plans.

The theme of the days consultative workshop was to analyse and initiate a work plan to jointly link the civil society in the Nile Basin Initiative developmental activities.

NBDF-Rwanda Website

NBDF-Rwanda has already established a website

(www.nbdfrwanda.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 tha chance to register or access subscription to our activities and involvement.

KEY OUTPUTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS FOR NBDF-Rwanda Work Plan

The key outputs for all the NBDF-Rwanda activities were:

- To obtain a fully functioning and equipped Knowledge Resource Center; a library with a wide range of books with a variety of information have been installed with internet access as well
- Relationship between the RNBDF and NBI at national levels promoted;
- Media people and Civil Society informed and involved in NBD and NBI development;
- Newsletters have been published;
- Posters and other awareness materials were made
- NBDF-Rwanda website is already available online
- Etc.
- Interviews and meeting with the Parliamentary Environmental Standing Committee (views and minutes published)
- Workshops held and reports made.



In picture: locals digging terraces to control the water movement and water flow. NBDF takes part in such and more environmental activities in the country.

Rwanda Activity Plan for the Second Milestone

This work plan covers a period of six months, from November 2006 to April 2007. It was been compiled by Frank Habineza, National Coordinator, RNBDF and Aloys Bicamumpaka Finance Officer, CCI, during the Coordinators and Finance Officers training at Entebbe-Uganda.

Objectives

The major objective of RNBDF is to be the "voice of the voiceless", through the involvement of civil society organizations in the Nile Basin Initiative's overall development.

The objective of this action plan is to establish the RNBDF in order to provide the basis for an effective dialogue between all stake-holders in Rwanda and to provide a conduit for dissemination to and engagement with the NBI at all levels.

This action plan also contains the activities required in the Knowledge and Communications Milestone, which include, procurement of equipments to be used, establishing a Library, designing a KRC website and updating it, publishing a monthly newsletter both in print and electronically, producing awareness arising materials, media awareness, media consultative workshop and competition on Nile reporting, consultative meetings with NBI projects and programs as well as steering committee meetings.

Activity plan

1. Establishing a National (Nile) Knowledge Resource Centre

This activity will lead to an operational Knowledge Resource Centre, based at RNBDF Coordinating Unit hosted by ARECO Rwanda Nziza, the Country Coordinating Institution (CCI). It will involve acquisition of equipments such as I Laptop and its accessories, more furniture such as Chairs, tables and book shelves, library materials such as books, newspapers and journals, website design and updating, office supplies such as stationery and communication facilities like internet and telephone. Some US\$4,207 has been brought forward from implementation of milestone one.

Rent office space

Since the CCI premises are not sufficient to accommodate the NBDF secretariat. Hence, more office space is being rented in the same building to accommodate the NDF Coordination Office and the KRC.

Staff Maintenance

Salaries have been budgeted to maintain the NBDF Staff, who are the National Coordinator, Secretary, Night Guard and an ICT consultant. The NBDF staff works closely with the management of the CCI as far as financial management and administrative works are concerned. The budget is for six months starting from November 2006-April 2007.

2. Awareness Rising Activities on the Nile issues

Monthly Newsletter

A monthly newsletter has been published both in print and electronically, 500 copies will be available for distribution to all partners and an e-bulletin will be transmitted by the Rwanda Development Gateway to the world.

Awareness Rising Materials

Awareness rising materials such as posters, banners, T-shirts are made made; these will help in selling the image of NBDF in places it can not reach.

Briefing Parliamentarians on Niles Issues

This activity shall be done twice, by meeting the Environment Standing committee in the house and as well publish an interview from them in our newsletter and in the press if possible.



For Nile Basin Discourse Forum in Rwanda, actions speak more than words. To involve the masses, is the only way one can achieve any set goals and objectives. The syllogism is a force driving for us. As in the picture, it is observed that everyone is part of our initiative regarding environmental protection. In many regions, because Rwanda's highlands need to be put to use agriculturally, terraces and contours are dug to help the local community sustainability.

Public debates and Media Awareness on the Nile to the Public on Radio, TV and Newspapersfrom Page 3

Media awareness activities are carried out, these include public talks and debates on radio and TV, different views and information will also be published in the newspapers. This will be done once a month and will also include our strategic plan. We have also contributed to the debates on most environmentally and socially effective ways of abating water hyacinth.

Media Consultative workshop and competition on the Nile reporting

We shall organize a workshop for all media people and as well as a competition on Nile reporting, this will be done in Kigali and prizes shall be given to journalists who write or report on the Nile more than others.

Facilitating Media Network on the Nile

The media network which was formed by CBSI and which we are part of facilitates in meetings and this is done once a month and discussions are done on different ideas on strengthening the role of media in the Nile Basin Area especially in Rwanda and encouraging CSO's to make actions that can lead to selling stories.

This network is to encourage reporting on the Nile.

Consultative meetings with NBI officials at national level

The National Coordinator pays courtesy visits to NBI officials including the NELSAP coordinating unit and other national project coordinating units to continue the engagement exercise that has been established to achieve effective working relationships with those bodies. These visits are planned twice a month for the whole period.

Steering Committee meetings

The SC meetings convene once a month to discus on the monthly reports and other important issues, they also monitor and evaluate the on going activities and advise where necessary.

Stakeholders Workshop on NTEAP Projects in Butare

One stakeholder's perspectives workshop on NTEAP projects wias held in Butare (Southern Province). This brought together beneficiaries of the Micro Grants program of NTEAP and NBI-UNDP, GEF-SGP officials, to find out ways of enhancing the program and examine its success and weaknesses.

Water harvesting workshop in Nyagatare

This water harvesting workshop examined water for agricultural use and emphasized water to be a big issue for CSO members. It was held in Nyagatare where NELSAP-Kagera TIWRMP installed a rain water harvesting system.

Consultative workshop on Socio-economic Development and Benefit Sharing of NBI projects

This workshop will be held with Nile Transboundary Network and will different stakeholders and it will give recommendation for possible areas of research

Marking Nile, Water and Environmental days

We shall organize community activities and cerebrate these days in the country areas where Kagera river passes.



In picture: Minister Bikoro (middle) together with Ms Uwimana Albertine; the steering committee Chairperson and Mr. Habineza Frank, the NBDF-Rwanda National Coordinator at NOVOTEL in Kigali.

Tears Flow Over Water Privatisation

Global issues around water privatization flowed at the World Social Forum held in Nairobi from 20th to 25th January 2007 when a Tanzanian feminist coalition outlined its concerns.

City Water, a consortium of Biwater in Britain, Gauff in Germany and a local company Superdoll, took over -the supply of water to Dar Es Salaam in a \$102 million, 10-year contract it signed with the Tanzanian government in 2003.

Two years later, the government - pressured by consumers who complained of poor services - terminated the contract. Biwater, acting on behalf of the consortium, then applied to the British High Court for an injunction to prevent the Tanzanian government from unlawfully terminating their contract. The company also sought compensation.

Deus Kibamba, co-ordinate of the Feminist Activist Coalition in Tanzania, narrated the saga during a session which sought to discuss a common international civil society strategy on 'Promoting the Human Right to Water.'

"The privatization of water was a condition of the International Monetary Fund's Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility and from 2000 to 2003 it was a condition of an IMF Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility. So the government was practically forced into privatization of water," said

Kibamba.

"People were revolting against the firm's poor performances," said Ruth Munshi from Tanzania, adding that popular resentment against private water monopolies was not just confined to Tanzania but was a world-wide phenomenon.

Anti-privatization demonstrations have rocked parts of Latin America in recent years, and protests have also taken place in Africa, the Caribbean and Asia. According to the World Bank, Tanzania is one of the most heavily indebted countries of the world, with an external debt of about \$7.5 billion. At least 27 percent (9.8 million people) of Tanzania's population do not have access to safe water. The UN Children's Fund says 40 percent of children under five suffer from diarrhea as a result of drinking unsafe water.

Mushi says City Water was supposed to be the flagship water privatization scheme in Africa but it failed because it was more interested in its "bottom line" - meaning profits.

The Tanzanian government says it terminated City Water's agreement because the consortium had failed to honor the terms of its contract. However, in previous reports, City Wa-ter has said it had received inaccurate information on critical issues such as the extent of damaged infrastructure and the number of active consumers.

Kibamba said civil society must put pressure on the Tanzanian government not to give in to privatization of public utilities: "There was no consultation with the people over such an important issue ... We will not relent."

CIVIL SOCIETY AND REASONS FOR HOPE

The challenges facing civil society include not only the threats from the war on Terror, but also calls for greater legitimacy, transparency and accountability.

One fact of globalization is that many of the decisions that affect virtually all human beings everywhere, for many generations, are increasingly taken by a few; that is, there is an ever-increasing democratic deficit at both domestic and international levels. The importance of efforts to counter this negative trend cannot be overemphasized, and the WSF represents a key part of these efforts.

One of the current challenges is the trend of increasing threats to civil society's very existence-threats that are closely associated with the discourse and practice of the so-called 'War on Terror', and that take the form of an ever-growing number of countries passing legislation to restrict the rights and activities of civil society.

As civil society has grown more powerful, not only at the national level but also globally, so there have been increas-ng calls by governments and critics questioning the legitimacy, transparency and accountability of civil society.

MEETING THE CHALLENGE

There are many efforts underway to address this challenge, including the International NGO Accountability Charter agreed by a diverse group of NGOs in 2006. The charter illustrates civil society's commitment to ensure that it maintains the highest ethical standards possible.

Another challenge that civil society must face is to find greater common ground for dialogue and action. The space offered by the WSF is an indication that civil society continues to make progress in this regard, but much more needs to be done. There are other encouraging signs as well, such as the recent unification of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), the World Confederation of Labor and a few other independent trade unions.

REASONS FOR HOPE

The on going efforts of the Global call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) also give reason for hope of more united civil society action across countries, sectors and regions.

In October 2006, around the International Day for Poverty Eradication, GCAP led a mobilization effort called Stand Up Against Poverty. According to the Editor-in-Chief of the Guinness Book of Records, the 23.5 million people who participated constituted the largest-ever single mobilization of people in a 24-hour period. These actions, which seek to maintain pressure on governments to deliver on their fairly modest commitments and to open up pathways to participation by new constituencies of citizens, show how important it is to focus on the considerable number of areas where there is agreement and common ground.

Most broadly, the challenge we must accept is to reflect deeply - from the local to the global levels - on how civil society can enhance and improve our effectiveness. **To Page 6**

THE NILE DAY, 2007

In November, 2005, the SVP-SAP Coordination meeting endorsed a proposal by CBSI to hold an annual celebration of the Nile Day on February 22 NTEAP expressed its commitment to join efforts with' CBSI in organizing the annual event. In recent months, tentative consultations were made between CBSI and NBD to hold the celebration as a joint ernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Working Group I event. The last NEL-COM meeting held in Bagamoyo, Tanzania from Report January 5-9, 2007 adopted the proposal of having an extra-ordinary NILECOM meeting in February 2007 in Kigali, Rwanda.

This event is expected to draw the attention of the world on the Future of the Nile Basin. The regional, international and national media will focus on Kigali and the capitals of the riparian countries. There is a need Purpose to urgently undertake multi-faceted preparations for these events. With the approach of the date of the celebrations, there is urgent need to reach common understanding of the requisite tasks, respective duties and responsibilities. This note intends to promote brainstorming on the overall strategy to be adopted in preparing and implementing the required activities.

The NBI, established in February 22, 1999, has been undertaking a se-change. ries of multi-pronged activities toward transforming and restructuring the relationship among riparian member countries in a fundamental way so that they build a sustainable framework and enabling environment to tackle massive poverty, severe environmental degradation, political instability and population displacements that has been a feature of the basin. Two complimentary parallel tracks have characterized this process: negotiation to establish a permanent legal framework on the one hand (D-3), and a series of cooperative development programs through the SVPs, NELSAP and ENSAP- that demonstrate tangible early fruits of cooperation, on the other. Now the two tracks are about to conclude, resulting in a permanent legal framework and a permanent NBI institution. NELSAP and ENSAP are about to embark on large joint projects - the IMP and the Rusumo Multipurpose Projects.

The primary objective of Nile Day 2007 is to reach out the message of the NBI to NB populations as many as possible within a single day in each of NB countries. It encompasses an official celebration, a series of NBI activity, events and festivals among populations. This requires concerted efforts by all NB countries, NBI institutions, Personnel, and NBD structures and members.

REASON FOR HOPEfrom page 5

We are called upon to recognize that one of our strengths stems from our diversity. The danger is that diversity can sometimes be used as an excuse for parochialism, a lack of willingness to explore collaborative ways of working and, sometimes, individual-istic approaches to social change. By Habineza Frank (NBDF-Rwanda Coordinator)

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENATIVES HEARING CHARTER

The State of Climate Change Science 2007:

The Findings of the Fourth Assessment Report by the Intergov-

Thursday, February 8, 2007 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. 2318 Rayburn House Office Building

On February 8, 2007, the Committee on Science and Technology held a hearing on the first section of the 2007 assessment report, Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis of Climate Change, prepared by Working Group I of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Released in Paris, France, on February 2, 2007, this document presented a comprehensive appraisal of the current state of scientific knowledge of climate

The Committee heard testimony from four witnesses, each of whom were involved in the preparation of the Working Group I Report. These witnesses presented the findings of the Report and discussed the relationship between the current findings and those of past IPCC reports on the state of climate change sci-

.....To be continued in the next issue for march!!!!!!!!

Below is the NBDF-Rwanda acquired document for a recognition status as an NGO in Rwanda

NBDF PROVISORY AGREEMENT DOCUMENT AS AN NGO IN RWANDA



CLIMATE CHANGE SERIES; I

SUMMARY OF THE 24TH SESSION OF THE UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL/GLOBAL

MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM:

5-9 FEBRUARY 2007

The 24th session of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC-24/GMEF) took place from 5-9 February 2007, at the UN Office in Nairobi, Kenya.

Over 1000 participants, including delegates from 141 countries, as well as representatives of UN agencies, international organizations, academia, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), business and industry, and women and youth organizations, attended the week-long gathering. Fifty-seven of the 58 members of the Governing Council were represented.

During the week, delegates convened in plenary sessions, a Committee of the Whole, a budget working group, a drafting group and several contact groups to consider draft decisions. From Monday to Wednesday, ministerial consultations addressed the themes of globalization and the environment, and UN reform. The GC/GMEF concluded its work by adopting 15 decisions on issues relating, inter alia, to: the world environmental situation; international environmental governance (IEG); chemicals; South-South cooperation; waste management; 2010-2020 UN Decade for Deserts and the Fight Against Desertification; UNEP s updated water policy and strategy; and support to Africa in environmental management and protection.

The GC/GMEF also approved the budget and work programme for the 2008-2009 biennium.

As delegates left the UN complex in Gigiri on Friday evening, they expressed satisfaction with the outcomes of GC-24/GMEF, in particular the decision on chemicals management, which paves the way for a structured process to address issues related to mercury, including the establishment of an ad hoc open-ended working group. The GC/GMEF also welcomed the new format of ministerial consultations and gave a ringing endorsement to the recently appointed UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF UNEP GC/GMEF

Upon the recommendation of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, the UN General Assembly, in its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 1972, established UNEP as the central UN node for global environmental cooperation and treaty making. The resolution also established the UNEP GC to provide a forum for the international community to address major and emerging environmental policy issues. The GC s responsibilities include the promotion of international environmental cooperation and the recommendation of policies to achieve this, and the provision of policy guidance for the direction and coordination of environmental programmes in the UN system. The GC reports to the UN General Assembly, which also elects the GC s 58 members for four-year terms, taking into account the principle of equitable regional representation. The GMEF is constituted by the GC, as envisaged in UN General Assembly resolution 53/242.

The purpose of the GMEF is to institute, at a high political level, a process for reviewing important and emerging policy issues in the field of the environment.

GC-19: The nineteenth session of the GC convened in two segments from 27 January - 7 February 1997, and from 3-4 April 1997, in Nairobi, Kenya. Delegates adopted the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of UNEP, which expanded the mandate to include: analyzing the state of the global environment; assessing global and regional environmental trends; providing policy advice and early warning information on environmental threats; and catalyzing and promoting international cooperation and action, based on the best scientific and technical capabilities available.

GC-20: GC-20 took place from 1-5 February 1999, in Nairobi, and adopted over 30 decisions on a range of topics, including: the Environment Fund, administrative and budgetary matters; linkages among and support to environmental and environment-related conventions; and policy issues, including the state of the environment, coordination and cooperation within and outside the UN, UNEP governance and emerging policy issues.

GCSS-6 /GMEF: The sixth Special Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GCSS-6/GMEF) took place from 29-3 I May 2000, in MalmÆ, Sweden. Ministers adopted the MalmÆ Ministerial Declaration, which agreed that the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) should review the requirements for a greatly strengthened institutional structure for international environmental governance (IEG).

GC-21/GMEF: GC-21/GMEF took place from 5-9 February 2001, in Nairobi. Delegates established the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives (IGM) to undertake a comprehensive policy-oriented assessment of existing institutional weaknesses, as well as future needs and options for strengthening IEG. They also adopted decision 21/7, which requests the UNEP Executive Director to examine the need for a strategic approach to international chemicals management (SAICM).

To be continued in issue 3 for March

MEMBERS OF NBDF RWANDA

N°	ORGANISATION	CONTACT PERSON	ADDRESS	MAIN INTERVENTION FO- CUS
1	ARECO-RWANDA NZIZA (Association Rwandaise des Ecologistes)	MUKAKAMARI Dancilla	e-mail : arecorwa@yahoo.fr	Environmental Protection
2	ARJE (Association Rwandaise des Journalistes Environnementaux)	UWIMANA Albertine	rwejass@yahoo.com	Promotion of Environmental Reporting in different media in Rwanda
3	(RECOR) Rwanda Environmental Conservation Organisation	SEHENE Jean Chrysostome	rwc@planet-save.com	Conservation, Agroforestry, ecotourism and Environmental educa-
4	SERUKA ASBL	KAYITEGEYE Athanasie	seruka@rwanda1.com	Gender Environmental Protection
5	IMBARAGA SATP Environmental Trainer Organic Farming	Mrs. SANYU Régina	sanyuregina@yahoo.com	Agriculture Parcs protection
6	URUMURI RW'URUKUNDO	NDIRIMA Denis	Tél/Fax: 575668	Rural Development
7	SOLIDAIRES BENURUGWIRO	MUKABINAMA Edith	solidaires_b@yahoo.fr	Gender, Development, Micro
8	JOC/F (Jeunesse OuvriXre Catholique for Girls)	NKUNDIZANA Domina	nkundizana@hotmail.com	Catholic Youth Promotion
9	ISUKU ASBL	RUSHOMWINTWARI Sylvestre	isuku_rwanda@yahoo.fr	Hygiene, Environmental Protection
10	ARDI	RUDASINGWA Emmanuel	Tél: 08571048	Development, Environmental Protection
11	FRSP (Federation Rwandaise du Secteur Privé)	BITWAYIKI Eugène	frsp@rwandal.com	Private Sector Federation
12	Rwanda Rain Water Harvesting Association	KABALISA Vincent	nilerwa@yahoo.fr	Rain water harvesting
13	RDO Rwanda Development Organisation	BAHORANA Augustin	08594464	Rural development
14	Fondation Nzambazamariya Vénéranda	MUKANTABANA Crescence	mukacresc@yahoo.fr	Gender
		28 II		Child Rights Protection
15	ACNR (Association pour la Conservation de la Nature au	BIZIMANA Innocent	Inbizimana@avu.org	Nature Conservation
16	ARDHO (Association Rwandaise pour la Defense des droits de l Homme)	SAFARI Emmanuel	manusafari@yahoo.com	Human Rights
17	CLADHO (Human Rights Umbrella Organisation)	UWANYIRIGIRA Agnes	572740	Human rights umbralla organisation
18	JOC (Jeunesse our riere Catholique Garcons)	KALISA Ernest	kalisajoc@yahoo.com yahoo.com	Catholic Youth Promotion
19	UGAMA/CSC	SIMPUNGA Innocent	simpunga@yahoo.fr	Capacity building for local CSOs, tranining
20	PRO-FEMMES/TH	Suzanne RUBONEKA	Pro- femme@rwanda1.com	Gender, Umbrella for Women Associations
21	AREDI (Association Rwandaise pour l'Environnement et le Developpement Intégré)	SIKUBWABO Adélard	aredi@rwanda1.com	Environmental protection and Inte-
	COCVIL (C. T.L.C. F., IT. D. L.)	TWANGIDA Issa Issaad	tekesik@hotmail.com	grated Development
22	COSYLI (Conseil des Syndicats Libres au Rwanda) CCOAIB (Conseil de Concertation des Organisations d	TWAYIGIRA Jean Léonard	Tél : 522585, 08479390	Workers Union Dialogue, capacity building and ex-
23	Appui aux Initiatives de Base)	Prisca	ccoaib@rwanda1.com	change for local initiatives
24	Reseau des femmes	UWIMANA Bibiane	refemme@rwanda1.com	Gender Promotion of Rural Women in Rwanda
25	BENISHYAKA	GAHIMA Betty	benasoc@rwanda1.com	Gender Support to Women and vulnerable Children
26	ARJ (Association Rwandaise des Journalistes)	SEMUKANYA Martin	msemukanya@yahoo.fr	Promotion of professional Journalism in Rwanda
27	INADES FORMATION	KABAYIZA Eustache	584713	Rural development
28	(RWEPI) Rwandese Health Environment Project Innitiative	James RUBAKISIBO	Tel: 08856116	Environmental health and protection
29	CAURWA (Conseil des Autoctones au Rwanda)	SEBISHWI Juvénal	juvesebi@yahoo.fr	Promotion of Indigenous People