



# TECHNICAL PROGRESS REPORT

*THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE PROJECT*

Appuyé par:



# 1. CONTEXT OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Virunga National Park is very rich in fauna and flora due to its great diversity of biotopes and natural habitats. The context of this Park is at the same time explosive with multiform pressures including agricultural activities regularly violating the boundaries of the Park in some places, illegal fishing (practices, techniques, inappropriate materials, fishing in bays ...) in Lake Edward inside the park, the search for firewood, carbonization, poaching and greed for oil exploitation inside the park. This situation is accentuated by the great poverty of the populations living along Lake Edouard and around the park, as well as the insufficient application of the regulatory texts associated with the management and protection of Virunga National Park, which has been listed as a world heritage site in danger since 1994. Despite the significant efforts made to remove it from the World Heritage in Danger list, many weaknesses remain and constitute new challenges to be addressed through concrete actions, individually and collectively, in the management of the park and collectively, in the framework of building a coherent, dynamic and inclusive civil society .

Faced with these human pressures on the Park's resources, during 12 months of efforts by CEPED in synergy with other public and private actors, the project will provide an opportunity to bring together different actors in order to strengthen sustainable management mechanisms by emphasizing the capacities of riparian communities to sustainably assume their responsibilities in the governance of natural resources through inter-sectoral consultations of stakeholders. CEPED's contribution will also focus on strengthening agricultural practices that are resilient to the effects of climate change and that contribute to reducing the illicit demand for natural resources such as soil, fauna and protected flora in the PNVi

This project aims to contribute to strengthening the protection and sustainable management of ecosystems by supporting community livelihoods and mobilizing stakeholders for better governance of the resources of Virunga National Park in North Kivu Province, Democratic Republic of Congo.



## 2. OBJECTIVE AND EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE PROJECT

### 2.1. Objective of the project

Contribute to strengthening the protection and sustainable management of ecosystems by supporting community livelihoods and mobilizing stakeholders for better management of Virunga National Park resources in the landscape.

### 2.2. Expected results

By July 2023, through the dissemination of resilient agriculture around the south and center of the park, the project will contribute to the fight against human pressure on Virunga National Park;

#### Specifically:

**Result 1 :** One (1) environmental education campaign for the preservation of the National Park is carried out in two groups bordering the PNVi and reaches at least 25,700 people;

#### Target indicators of results achieved:

- Report of broadcast and listeners' reactions
- Productions of radio broadcasts to raise awareness about the protection of the PNVi
- Broadcasting contract for CEPED and radio stations

- Images with visibility and message on the protection of the PNVi
- 5. Report on the follow-up of community and radio broadcasts

**Result 2:** One (1) demonstration field for resilient practices is operational in a locality near the Park for the learning of local communities;

#### Target indicators of results achieved:

- Activity Evaluation Report
- Images

**Result 3:** One (1) income generating activity based on the sustainable management system and compatible with the protection of the park's biodiversity for the benefit of the local communities is supported for the population around the Sarambwe Nature Reserve;

#### Target indicators of results achieved:

- Report from the Flour Processing Unit (Mill) in Sarambwe
- Report of the fields Beekeeping school in Sarambwe
- Pictures

**Result 4:** One (1) multi-stakeholder consultation framework is operational around the PNVi to guide advocacy actions related to biodiversity protection;

**Target indicators of results achieved:**

- Multi-stakeholder consultation framework for the protection of the biodiversity of the PNVi operational
- List of stakeholders

**Result 5:** One (1) capacity building workshop is held for the members of the consultation framework;

**Target indicators of results achieved:**

- Number of people trained
- Availability of evidence of biodiversity violations
- Actions and Monitoring Report

**Result 6:** One (1) monitoring core is active to provide the consultation frameworks with data on the destruction of the biodiversity of the PNVi;

**Target indicators of results achieved:**

- Availability of evidence of biodiversity violations
- Actions and Monitoring Report

**Result 7:** Two (2) advocacy actions carried out in favor of the protection of the PNVi

**Target indicators of results achieved:**

- Number of advocacy actions
- Number of events resolved or mitigated

**Result 8:** Establish basic nuclei in the villages bordering the park and within the radius of action of the project to ensure community surveillance of acts of poaching and deforestation and report them to the nearest park authority.

**Target indicators of results achieved:**

Number of core groups in the villages involved

### 3. ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

#### The project has set itself the following results:

**Result 1 : One (1) environmental education campaign for the preservation of the National Park is carried out in two groups bordering the PNVi and reaches at least 25,700 people**

*This output includes 3 activities throughout the project, including: awareness sessions in 4 local elementary school, radio broadcasts on environmental education (4 local radio stations), production and printing of awareness posters.*

#### **Activity 1 : Organize awareness sessions on the protection of the PNVi in schools**

In the mid-term of the project, a BUKOMA elementary school in Kiwanja was sensitized in October on the individual contribution to the protection of the Virunga National Park, on the effects of climate change and how to adapt to it (resilient agriculture to prolonged drought: soil fertilization, school gardens, agro-forestry).

The activity consists in making the students aware of the importance of the safeguarding of the biodiversity of the PNVi on the socio-economic life

of the population and on the future generations, to reinforce the protection of the rare species is endemic such as the mountain gorillas of the reserve of SARAMB-WE, why fight against the deforestation and to promote the means of subsistence of the riverside communities.

At least 2,500 students and schoolchildren are expected to be reached by the awareness campaign throughout the project. It should be noted that variation in the implementation of activities has been negatively impacted by the crisis between the M23 and the loyalist army, which has resulted in the closure of 152 primary schools and 108 secondary schools are still closed for the time being, affecting 103,320 children aged 6 to 17 (including 49,594 girls), and at least 27 schools have been destroyed by the M23 fighting.



## **Activity 2: Production of radio broadcasts on the protection of the PNVI**

This activity is underway and is being successfully carried out despite the crisis of the war; 74 programs and 135 micro-programs have already been broadcast in the months of September, October, January, February and March. The broadcasts are organized weekly at four community radio stations bordering the PNVI in the BINZA and BUKOMA groups in RUTSHURU territory. These community radio stations are: RACOV and RACOU in KIWANJA, LA COLOMBE FM in Rutshuru Centre and Radio DORIKA in NYAMILIMA.

*The main themes of the programs are centered around « the means of subsistence of the riparian communities and the protection of the biodiversity of the PNVI and the SARAMBWE Gorilla Nature Reserve».*

It should be noted that at the end of October until December, activities were suspended following hostilities between government forces and the M23 rebels, which caused a strong movement of the population that is our target in this activity, but re-launched in mid-January 2023 after the timid return of the population in the areas controlled by the M23. As a result of this situation,

CEPED has reduced its movements in the areas, adopted a strategy of working with local monitors and journalists to capitalize on activities during this time of crisis.

## **Result 2 :Support for an Income Generating Activity for the population in the BU-KOMA and BINZA groups**

After a consultation with the riparian population of the SARAMBWE Gorilla Nature Reserve, a survey on the survival of the riparian community, two development activities were proposed to support a development action in the BINZA group:

### **Activity 2.1: Provide the population with cassava flour processing units in two villages in direct contact with this reserve (Sarambwe and Nyarubugu)**

In the mid-term of the project, two processing units (mills) are installed in two notabilities: one in Sarambwe and the other in Nyaru-Bugu. The management of these units will be carried out by the community through a committee of 6 people per notability who are elected and installed by the Chief of the BINZA group in the presence of the chiefs of notability of SARAMBWE and NYARUBUGU.



These two processing units will serve about 4,000 people living in the area of the reserve, which includes the SARAMBWE and NYARUBUGU communities.

The population of these 2 notabilities makes approximately 13 km to find the mill; it is thus that to satisfy this need, at least of 12 mills must be installed to reduce the time to the mills.



## **Activity 2.2 : Training of local people in beekeeping and initiating a beekeeping park school for the community**

13. A 4-day training session was organized in the large room of the Binza group office in Kisharo, the session was attended by 30 (11 women and 19 men) delegates of the notability of Sarambwe and Nyarubugu through two local development organizations (Association for the Protection of Nature "APN" in Sarambwe and Peasant in Action for Integral Development "PADI"), the head of the group was represented by his Administrative Secretary

14. A Beekeeping School Park is installed at the Reserve River in KASARABANDA,

15. A common committee of 12 members from 2 notabilities Sarambwe and Nyarubugu is set up,

16. 30 beekeepers (11 women and 19 men) from the notability of Sarambwe and Nyarubugu are trained in beekeeping until the extraction of honey,

17. A Beekeeping School Park of 10 rich is installed at the Reserve River in KASARABANDA

The lack of means allowed us to install a Beekeeping School Park for the 2 Notabilities of Binza, to strengthen the community resilience of the local population CEPED will need two Beekeeping School Park of 40 rich people each and at least 60 rich people for the beekeepers.

**Comment:** *During the exchanges with the communities of Sarambwe and Nyarubugu, the desire to be accompanied in:*

1. To strengthen the support of the pilot project for the honey sector in favor of rural women, to strengthen the capacities of honey producers, to facilitate marketing and to enable them to professionalize the honey sector in the action zone
2. To train and accompany in Village Association of Savings and Credit (AVEC) to improve the economic living conditions of the people of the com-

munity through the diversification of the livelihoods of former poachers committed to the protection of the reserve;

18. Support to agriculture and lowland livestock to improve food security and contribute to poverty reduction for a better protection of the RNS

19. Rehabilitation of the Kamukwale-SARAMBWE agricultural feeder roads



## **Activity 2.3 : Support a demonstration field of climate change resilient agricultural practices in Bukoma cluster Season A (August to January)**

For this season we first targeted a pilot demonstration field of 50m by 50m located on the main road where the majority of the farmers of the region pass to locality Bunyereza, Groupement Bukoma en Bwisha, Rutshuru, one of the areas affected by the prolonged drought.

The activities took place as follows:

### **a) Ploughing : from August 13 to 15**

- **First ploughing: on August 13, 2023**

This phase involved 25 farmers, 15 men and 10 women; it consists of aerating the soil and allowing the soil to receive water while ensuring that the land is not injured by the extensive choice of application and demonstration of agricultural techniques;

- **Second ploughing: on August 27, 2023**

**Two:** After the first ploughing to move to the second ploughing carried out by hand by 25 farmers (15 men and 10 women) on the whole extent of the experimental field (50m by 50m)

### **b) Seedlings**

- **Firstly :** one week after the second ploughing, the pilot field of demonstration was subdivided in 4 plots (Farmers' School Fields) of 25 by 25 meters each one where different agricultural techniques will be applied of which Four treatments were chosen for experimentation (Local treatment usually applied in the area, Treatment without fertilizer and but with sowing in line, Treatments with organic fertilizer (dung) without sowing in line,

Treatments with organic fertilizer (dung) with sowing in line, treatment with straw) to make an observation with the farmers on the vigor of the cultures and the output in each parcel to leave to each farmer to make a free choice of the technique that it will apply the next season;

- **Second:** Two days later we proceeded to the sowing following the four treatment. We have chosen corn as seed Variety (Bazooka F1) for the sowing of four with 12.5 Kg of seed to Spacing of 50 X 70 cm for the plots in treatments with sowing in line of which 25 trainee farmers constituted the workforce

### c) Weeding :

The first weeding is done three weeks after sowing we did the first one on September 21, 2022 which was done by 25 farmers including 20 women and 5 men; the second weeding: three weeks after the second weeding on October 20, 2022 which was done by 25 farmers including 20 women and 5 men;



*To strengthen the sustainability of the project's achievements, the CEPED team involved the local authority through the agro- nomes of (Chiefdoms and two Bukoma Groups) at all levels.*





Projet de résilience communautaire pour la gestion durable du PNVI en Bwisha

Champs d'Experimentation des pratiques agricoles de restauration du sol et résiliente aux aléas climatiques

Site de **BUNYEREZA**  
Avec l'appui



GOLDMAN  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PRIZE

### **Output 3 : Reinvalidate a consultation framework for the protection of Virunga National Park**

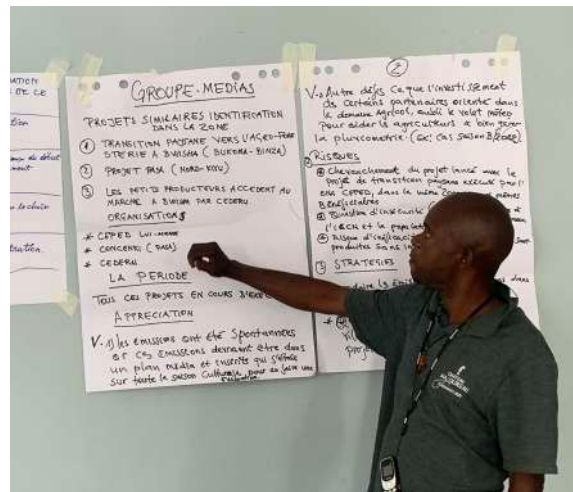
#### **Activity 3.1 : Meeting to launch project activities with stakeholders**

A meeting to present the activities of the project “Community resilience for the sustainable management of the Virunga National Park in Bwisha Chiefdom” was held on August 12, 2022 at the Hotel La Fleur in Kiwanja in the presence of civil society actors and administrative authorities of the intervention zone (25 civil society organizations in the environmental field, 8 state services of Rutshuru (Rural Development of the territory, A Territory Environment, a Local Development Committee of the Bwisha chiefdom, 2 representatives of the Chiefs of the Bukoma and Binza groups, 2 agro- nomes of Bukoma and Binza, a representative of the Agriculture, Fishing and Livestock Department of the Bwisha chiefdom, 4 local media were represented and 3 members of the CEPED teaching team, a total of 44 people (17 female and 27 male) took part in this meeting.

After presentation of the main lines of the project, some recommendations were made in relation to the major threats to the PNVi, such as :

1. Strengthen monitoring, lobbying and advocacy at the local, provincial, national and international levels for the cancellation of the decision to auction off oil blocks within the protected areas
2. Insufficient farmer demonstration sites piloted from where to apply the strategies of duplication of demonstration fields of agricultural techniques resilient to drought extended into the future.
3. Produce programs with farmers in their own fields in villages

Thus, after the activities of the project have been well understood by the stakeholders, the participants wish the continuation of meeting similarly for an evaluation put course and end project during this project the setting; All to reinforcing the implication implication of the local authority for the sustainability of the achievements of the project.



### **Activity 3.2 : Mapping mission of the actors and their working approaches**

Mapping of state and/or civil society actors who can help strengthen monitoring, lobbying and advocacy for the protection and sustainable management of Virunga National Park to promote synergy between actors in the fight against human pressure on Virunga National Park.

A mission to identify and analyze the mapping of key actors in the Binza axis and in Bukoma; A total of 51 civil society organizations and 4 state services of likely allied for a synergy work between actors around the fight against human pressure and for the protection of the Virunga National Park. Their approaches and strategy were understood by the different actors in the field to harmonize identified;

### **Activity 3.3 : Workshop to harmonize the around the protection of the PNVi**

A workshop on the harmonization of approaches of local actors who work for the protection of the Virunga National Park were harmonized in order to strengthen the sustainable management and protection of natural resources in the landscape. 30 civil society organizations and 4 state services were present.





### **Activity 4.1 : Capacity Building Workshop for Framework Members on Monitoring and Advocacy**

A capacity building workshop on monitoring and advocacy on natural resources and community livelihoods in the landscape, with 30 actors actively participating in this workshop.

To facilitate the understanding, advocacy, the exercise of monitoring of forests and other natural and land resources by the riparian communities. The reason for holding the capacity building workshop which aims to provide actors with the necessary tools for monitoring and raise awareness on the merits of monitoring the forest and other natural and land resources by local communities;



It was presented the main measures and tools essential to ensure proper monitoring of the forest and other natural resources and land.



To provide communities with the prerequisites to identify and denounce illegal exploitation activities taking place around them in an effective manner.

At the end of a monitoring exercise around and in the Virunga National Park by local state and civil society actors, two themes were retained: monitoring the exploitation of natural resources in the Park in the Bwisha chiefdom and taking stock of the wood cutting areas in Bwisha.

For one month the actors have committed to documenting: poaching,

Encroachment of the Park's boundaries by agriculture, sawing and identifying timber permits. To conduct advocacy primed by the admiring and customary authorities

***Comment:** Following the resurgence of the M23 war and the occupation of the entire area of the Bwisha chiefdom, which has complicated the monitoring missions, in addition to the flight of administrative and customary authorities from the territory of Rutshuru has made it impossible to compare the results of the fieldwork with the content of the administrative documents*

### **Activity 5.1 : monitoring the effects of climate change around Virunga National Park.**

In order to carry out advocacy for a sustainable management of natural resources of the Virunga Landscape in general and more particularly the safeguarding and protection of the last mountain gorillas, the biodiversity of the Virunga National Park and the SARAMBWE nature reserve contiguous to the Bwidi National Park of Uganda for the benefit of the present and future generations.

Thus a series of 3 observation missions on the state of invasion (wicked destruction and illicit exploitation of fauna and flora) is carried out, including one in the part of the elephant protection zone between Kahunga-Mabenga in the Central sector of the PNVi zone controlled by the rebel and two in and around the Nature Reserve of Sarambwe

### **Comment :**

- **IN THE ECOLOGICAL ELEPHANT PROTECTION ZONE**

The remaining ecological zone of the DCR on the axis KAHUNGA - MABENGA and which constitutes a place of refuge of last of the elephants of the National Park of Virunga is under a strong pressure of extinction through sawing, agriculture, carbonization, poaching in the group of Bukoma in the Chiefdom of Bwisha.

Of which fields are distributed and the extent devastated is estimated at several of hundreds of hectares are devastated by sawing, carbonization, poaching and agriculture and a strong progression that contained in the depth of the Park.

We counted 82 ovens (Carbonization Point) of carbonization on our passage, the indices of poaching, the sawings we saw 11 machines to Cut of the Wood (chainsaw). The part of the forest behind the PP of MABENGA, is finished, the tendency is to cross the river Ruthuru.



In view of the above, it is very urgent that the actors face to do the best possible to stop this crime on the fauna and flora (habitat of elephants) of Virunga





- **In the Sarambwe reserve**

#### **It was found observes**

- The reserve is invaded in almost all sectors by poachers, including the sector of Kanyabusini where we found 60% of the traps, most of which come from Nyarubugu and Sarambwe in the DRC and others in Kavumba in Uganda.



- Logging in the reserve is done mostly by the inhabitants of Kavumba in Uganda
- A male gorilla was reportedly killed in the Sarambwe Reserve by poachers. The gorilla is said to be Congolese and came from Bwindi, in the Kagera sub-sector. As soon as it was spotted and crossed the river, the poachers knew about it and tried to kill it, after

which it was found on the Rurengeri hill, and was killed by poachers from Kabuga, Mpimbi and Nyagahanga, who came down with the corpse in the open air.

The meat was sold in Kisharo this information is confirmed by several sources.

- While underlining the poor knowledge of the witnesses of the crime on the difference between Mountain Gorilla and Chimpanzee there is a risk of confusing the two hence the need to deepen the question for more precision.



1. The riparian population of the Sarambwe Nature Reserve has identified a progressive destruction of this space through agriculture, poaching, carbonization and sawing, during the mission we unearthed and demolished several poaching traps were unearthed and demolished by the CEPED monitors



# RECOMMENDATION

## The Congolese Government

1. Establish a management team for the SARAMBWE Nature Reserve, home to several rare species such as mountain gorillas and elephants;
2. Strengthen the authority of the State in the villages around the SARAMBWE Gorilla Nature Reserve for the security of the reserve and the local community,
3. Set up a team of park guards to protect the fauna and flora of the SARAMBWE Gorilla Nature Reserve
4. Implement the recommendations of the 2019 GVTC Limited Reaffirmation Report,
5. Support economic recovery initiatives in communities along the reserve:
6. Strengthen the collaboration between the two countries (DRC and Uganda) on the protection of two protected areas (Sarambwe Nature Reserve and Bwindi Impenetrable Park)

## The GVTC (Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration)

7. Informed follow-up to the Sarambwe-Bwindi International Border Reaffirmation Report June 26, 2019,
8. Expand the transboundary exchange meetings to include other key actors from civil society organizations involved in SARAMBWE for the sustainable management of this endangered gorilla nature reserve
9. Support community resilience activities around SARAMBWEE

## To the actors of conservation

10. That the organization that monitors the biodiversity of the reserve on a regular basis may conduct further research on the illegal exploitation of the reserve's natural resources

## To the local community

11. To collaborate with conservation stakeholders for the sustainable management of the reserve
12. To denounce the actors of the illicit exploitation of natural resources

*1Three monitoring missions on illegal exploitation (poaching, agricultural invasion, sawing or timber exploitation) of resources already carried out, two around/in the SARAMBWE nature reserve and the other on the ecological zone of protection of elephant KAHUN- GA or logging in protected areas*

*Essential in my life, it is to be that to appear one of great errors, it is to never try to make see to the people it is that you are not the bad smell is always known but nobody likes it, as the mosquito thinks that one cheers it or one was between to kill it.*

Done in GOMA, 27/03/2023 For CEPED, asbl

**PALUKU BAHITIRYE Jacques**  
Head of the project

**Eddy KAMBALE SIWAYITIRA**  
Coordinator

Approved by:  
**Rodrigue MUGARUKA KATEMBO**  
Director Deputy Site Manager of PNVi

Design and layout:  
**Victoire Batumike**



