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Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

Nature Based Community Exchange Workshop

Districts of Kapchorwa, Mbale, and Bududa; Eastern Uganda

from 29th to 31st August 2016

Conclusions and Recommendations

PREAMBLE

Leaders of 15 Nature Based Community Enterprises (NBCEs) from Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda met in Kapchorwa, Mbale, and Bududa Districts, Uganda on 29th - 31st August 2016 for the first Nature Based Community Exchange Workshop in a bid to promote Sustainable Community Enterprises and Environmental Resilience in the Albertine Rift region.

The main objective of this Workshop was to enable participants to exchange information/knowledge on best agricultural practises, energy saving solutions and value addition among others.

We, Leaders of 15 Nature Based Community Enterprises (NBCEs) from Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda,

ACKNOWLEDGING that nature provide indispensable goods and services for our livelihoods, and that they harbour unique biodiversity, provide non-timber forest products, water, food and energy security among others,

CONCERNED that rural communities are facing challenges including land degradation, and poverty which are increasing and exacerbated by climate change leading to rapid biodiversity loss, and increasing disasters,

VALUING the importance of traditional knowledge and bio-cultural heritage,

NOTING with concern the loss of traditional knowledge in the face of globalisation and competing commercial environment,

WELCOMING conservation efforts by protected area authorities in the region to promote benefit sharing with communities adjacent to protected areas,

WE DECLARE AND RESOLVE :

1. To formally establish a regional “**NBCE Learning Group**”.
2. We commit to promote the **BEST approach** which focuses on four key areas
B: *Building leadership and sustainable institutions*
E: *Enhancing environmental resilience*
S: *Sustainable business solutions*
T: *Transforming and inspiring others*
3. To put in place governing documents with rules and regulations (constitution).
4. We commit to provide leadership in adhering to the rules and regulation.
5. To include the youth and children in our conservation efforts.
6. We Commit ourselves to undertake sustainable farming practises especially organic agriculture.
7. We resolve to enhance nature and biodiversity in our farms and households through agroforestry, intercropping and integrated land use systems.
8. We commit to improve our livelihoods by undertaking viable business enterprises
9. We commit to promote knowledge sharing amongst ourselves, respective community's members and others through information sharing, holding meetings, exchange visits and establishing seed banks.
10. We appreciate the support provided by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Rwanda's fund for environment and climate change (FONERWA), through ARCOS, in bringing us together through the Nature Based Community Exchange Workshop.
11. We request ARCOS to continue to provide the technical and financial support in the coordination of this agenda.
12. We appreciate the hospitality offered by the members of the host community associations, i.e. Kapchorwa Elgon Farmers Association, Budwale Community Development Association and Bushika Integrated Area cooperative Enterprise (BIACE).
13. We appreciate collaboration and good working environment by different people and partner institutions including Uganda Wildlife Authority and different district authorities of Kapchorwa, Mbale and Bududa.
14. We commit to follow, work according and respect the National Environmental Laws in our respective countries.

WE CALL UPON

We call upon the protected area authorities to strengthen the relationship between protected areas and communities by establishing benefit sharing schemes while reinforcing the existing. This includes controlled access to park resources.

We call upon government, private sector, and development partners to increase investments in initiatives that improve communities livelihoods and environmental sustainability considering Nature Based Community Groups as main partners.

We welcome delegates at the World Mountain Forum (WMF) and call upon all countries to integrate the needs of mountain communities in the local Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Paris agreement on climate change.

Annex 1: List of participants

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NBCEs

Programme



Albertine Rift Conservation Society
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Collaborative Action for Nature and People