

Project Update: January 2020

As initially planned, sooner after the grant was received, the project management proceed by acquiring the necessary training materials such as papyrus, hooks, paints and threads. Unfortunately, after securing them, the area became a victim of a military attack. In this circumstance, the project management in collaboration with the local authorities, suggested to put on hold the project as most of the members were still under the shock and trauma.

Towards the end of November 2019, with the green light from the local authorities the project resumed its activity. Contrary to the initial plan, the first field action has been the introduction of the project to local authorities. This phase was very important in terms of assessing beneficiaries following the above-mentioned horror. It was also an opportunity for 17 women selected as trainers to present the 16 selected beneficiaries. Let's recall that during the first project phase only 17 out of 33 women passed the evaluation test and qualified as trainers; this second phase was designed to help the 17 to train 16 women to bring the total number of trained women to 66.

After the introduction, the project moved on to distribute the acquired training materials to enable the training to start.



Emmanuel Bugingo with 17 new trainees. and three volunteers from Belgium (Marie and Benoit) and Germany (Marcel). © Emmanuel Bugingo.

I take this opportunity to report about a minor change in the project timescale following the October 2019 incidence. This change involves training of the 17 women

which was initially scheduled between September and November 2019. It is now rescheduled to take place between December 2019 and February 2020.

The training is following the old format of a half-day training which is concluded by an environmental education session organised to boost beneficiaries' knowledge and involvement in issues facing the environment, mechanisms and approaches to mitigate them. We insist on the link between the project and conservation in general and Volcanoes National Park conservation in particular.

The good news is that, these new trainees are showing a high learning level. As per the photos below, many of them have are able to make a basket cover. This gives us a hope that we will quickly catch up the missed schedule.

In regard to the project monitoring, the consultative committee convened on November 12th, 2019, recommended the use of old format of monitoring format.



Emmanuel Bugingo with all project beneficiaries (new trainees plus beneficiaries of the 1st project phase). © Emmanuel Bugingo.