

The World Wetlands Day Report from BUKAVU DR CONGO celebrated by the Environmental Civil Society SOCEARUCO NETWORK.

**SOCIETE CIVILE ENVIRONNEMENTALE  
ET AGRO-RURALE DU CONGO  
« SOCEARUCO » SUD-KIVU**



**LE 2 FEVRIER 2015 :  
JOURNEE MONDIALE DES ZONES HUMIDES**

**THEME INTERNATIONAL :  
ZONES HUMIDES POUR NOTRE AVENIR**

- 1. NOUS VOULONS UN EDIT POUR LA  
GOUVERNANCE DES ZONES HUMIDES AU SUD KIVU**
- 2. NOUS DEMANDONS UN INVENTAIRE  
DES ZONES HUMIDES AU SUD-KIVU**

## **Objectives of the commemoration of World Wetlands Day in Bukavu DRC**

- The DRC did not remain indifferent in the organization of the Wetlands World Day through the NGOs members of environmental civil society network coordinated by Pastor Josué ARUNA in Bukavu city.
- Two goals for the event in the DRC at Bukavu town in South Kivu Province have been considered:
  1. Conduct outreach to the entire population of the province and the DRC in order to attract the attention of a mass collective interest offered by wetlands for the future of the local population and that of the great African lakes region.
  2. Conduct advocacy with policy makers at the local level by handing in a memorandum signed by more than 50 NGOs calling on provincial parliamentarians to pass a local law that would serve as a model for Governance regulate wetlands in the DRC from South Kivu province and the provincial government to conduct an inventory of wetlands in the province.

## **CARRIED OUT ACTIVITIES BEFORE THE DAY OF 02.02.2015**

- Four meetings with NGOs members of the Network were held in the office of AASF Bukavu which ensures the lead;
- Multiple letters were distributed to national and local authorities and to some partners to inform them about the organization of the commemoration of the WWD 2015 at Bukavu;
- An application for authorization of the peaceful march of awareness and advocacy was addressed to the mayor of Bukavu city;
- A radio emission was organized for this purpose on the wise use and management of wetlands and freshwater in South Kivu DRC.

## CARRIED OUT ACTIVITIES DURING THE WETLAND DAY

### 1. Peaceful march to raise awareness of the population and advocacy to policy makers



**During the march the security services and police have well supported us**



**women were mostly represented at World Wetlands Day**



**Women in Bukavu/DRC abandoned their daily activities because they are concerned with the future of wetlands in DRC and in the Great Lakes region.**



## **Arrival at the Provincial Assembly of South Kivu to hand in the Memorandum asking for voting a local law that can guide wetlands management**



**Pastor Josué ARUNA network coordinator reading the memo and explaining its contents to the deputy in charge of the environment and natural resource commission requesting the vote of a local law on the future governance of wetlands of South Kivu Province.**



## Message from the memo sent to the provincial assembly and reaction of the deputy

Here is the message in the memorandum addressed to provincial deputies of South Kivu.

NGOs members of the network environmental civil society in South Kivu, ask to the provincial deputies the following:

Considering the opportunity offered to you by the constitution of the DRC, giving you the power to legislate on matters that represent a provincial or local interest. Environmental Civil Society of South Kivu recommends this to the Provincial Assembly of South Kivu:

1. To initiate and pass an edict that can guide provincial policy on the future governance of wetland ecosystems in South Kivu;

It is based on the political of the Honorable deputies, that, the population of South Kivu and the Great Lakes region will benefit from this Local law, as a model throughout the DRC in the governance of wetlands and ensure a better future for her, because without wetlands the future of South Kivu and the whole region remains uncertain.



The deputy in charge of Environment and Natural Resources Committee of the Provincial Assembly, expresses a sense of joy praising environmental civil society network for their work on wetlands domain and promises us to put all his effort on voting the local law that can guide the management of wetlands in South Kivu as a model for the DRC.

The message of advocacy: we want an edict for the governance of wetlands in South Kivu





**At the Provincial Assembly of South Kivu, a photo with the Honorable President of the Environment Committee, was taken for expressing the joy of this action on behalf of wetlands in the DRC**



**After the provincial assembly; the march headed to the Governor's office of South Kivu province to hand in a second memorandum; asking the Provincial Government to make an inventory of wetlands in South Kivu**



**After the provincial assembly the NGOs members took direction to the provincial governor's office**



**The Arrival of NGOs at the office of provincial governor of South Kivu.**



**Handing in the second memorandum to the Governor office Director accompanied by the councilor responsible for the environment and agriculture**



Here is the message in the memorandum addressed to the South Kivu provincial government.

The NGOs members of the network of environmental civil society in South Kivu, ask the Provincial Government the following:

1. To organize a wetland inventory available in the South Kivu province;
2. To develop a provincial policy on governance of wetland ecosystems in South Kivu as a model for the DRC;
3. Enforce ten meters shores of our lakes and rivers also by establishing state authority in the environmental sector;
4. Enhance wetlands for economic, tourist, cultural, to generate revenue for the development of the South Kivu province in the DRC;
5. To ensure the visibility of wetlands of South Kivu in order to be included in the list of Wetlands of International Importance of the RAMSAR Convention for a touristic attraction in South Kivu and the DRC in general



## Official presentation of the message of awareness and advocacy to the Governor's Director officer.



The Director's officer , presents a paper of awareness to the governor advisor in charge of the environment and agriculture for displaying it in the governor's office for a souvenir of the wetlands day and he promises to involve the environmental civil society network in the sustainable development plan of the South Kivu province.

**A family photo taken with the government delegates at the end of advocacy  
on wetlands management**





**World Wetland Day ended with a public awareness campaign to fishermen of Kivu Lake and women' fish sellers**



**Rational management of the Kivu Lake is a success factor for our future and a good return on ecosystem services for food for our families and our economies issue now and in the future. We must manage sustainably the ecosystem of the Kivu Lake.**



## Together for the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity for water and wetlands in the DRC



**We will make all effort to protect our lakes and wetlands in the DRC for ensuring our future.**



- **The World Wetlands Day 2015 edition in the DRC was organized through the local contribution of NGOs members of the network of environmental civil society in South Kivu.**
- **Under the coordination of Pastor Josué ARUNA**
- **Network coordinator and responsible of AASF NGO Bukavu**
  - **Many Thanks to all, NGO's Members by their contribution and success of this event in DRC: AASF, APRODEA, AROM-APN, ARSF, REMAK, SOADI, AIDE, ADECPM, SAIP, ADEPS, AMEN, LUNACOP, ADIC, UFEDE-Inc, FAEICO, ACODESKI, Etc.**
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