



**CRH & IRSNB**

**Public awareness on the reduction of threats to crocodiles and hippopotamuses in the Ruzizi Plain and the lake shore in Uvira DRC, North-end Region of Lake Tanganyika**

By: **Alexis BASHONGA BISHOBIBIRI**,  
CRH-Uvira, +243 997 497 820  
[bashobisho@gmail.com](mailto:bashobisho@gmail.com)

**Discussion**

To reduce the threats to crocodiles and hippos it is necessary to:

- State involvement in the application of laws governing the protection of biodiversity, its environment and the sound management of wetlands;
- The involvement of landholders for the wise management of wetlands and the respect of the texts for their well-being and for future generations;
- Strengthen scientific research to determine who can and who should do what;
- Maintain permanent vegetation around ponds, along rivers, lakes, and streams for sustainable productivity;
- Delineate a protected wetland area with one or two rows of bamboo as a sustainable solution to the plant and animal productivity of ecosystems;
- To supply earthlings along wetlands in bamboo cuttings to be reforested in delimitation of their fields and wetlands (Bamboo Project);
- Submit wetlands for designation as a protected area, park or Ramsar site.

**Recommendations**

The sensitized public recommends:

- Compliance with biodiversity laws and decrees (CPR, 2002, Vundu & Kalambay, 2013);
- Review of other existing laws on the environment and biodiversity;
- Full protection of the Kyamvubu pond to mitigate crocodile and hippo attacks on the population;
- Maintaining a permanent protective vegetation belt of ponds, rivers, streams and the lake shore for the sustainability of crocodiles, hippos and biodiversity and for human well-being;
- Creation of a protected wetland along the Ruzizi River including adjacent natural ponds from Kamanyola to the mouth of small Ruzizi River, including the Kyamvubu pond.

**References**

- CPR (Office of the President of the Republic), 2002, Law No. 011/2002 of 29 August 2002, on the Forestry Code. Official Journal, No. 43, 38 pages
- Vundu and Kalambay, 2013. The Forest Code, Law No. 0011/2002 of 29 August 2002, renewed and completed.

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**Conclusions**

The study demonstrated that:

- Following the disappearance of wetlands, crocodiles and hippos are threatened and may disappear;
- Wild animals roam along rivers, in ponds, on lake shores, in household gardens and in fields where they are injured and killed, and where they also injure and kill people;
- The disappearance of crocodiles and hippos is a danger of loss of fish production, macro-invertebrates and micro-invertebrates, phytoplankton and zooplankton necessary for the nutrition and survival of fish and humankind.

**Key message**

Wetlands along the Ruzizi River, ponds and Lake Tanganyika, ecological habitats for crocodiles and hippos, have been degraded. Scavenging crocodiles and hippos are injured and killed; they too wound and kill. The project aims to raise public awareness about the reduction of threats to crocodiles, hippos, birds and biodiversity in general, in application of the law n° 011/2002 of 29/8/2002, for the protection of the wetlands (CPR, 2002; Vundu and Kalambay, 2013).

**Kiswahili**

Makao ya mamba na kiboko yanayopatikana nafasi za majimaji pembezoni ya muto Ruzizi, visima, na pembezoni ya ziwa Tanganyika, vimevamiwa. Mamba na kiboko vimetawanyika na mara kwa mara huumizwa na kuwawa. Nyama hizo nazo huumiza watu na kuwauwa. Muradi huu umelenga kuelimisha watu juu ya kupunguza mazara yenyikuelemea mamba, kiboko, ndege na viumbe kwa jumla, kufuatana na sheria n° 011/2002 ya tarehe 29/8/2002 (CPR, 2002; Vundu et Kalambay, 2013).

