

Global Campaign on the Respect of works of indigenous women farmers – in Nyiragongo, North Kivu

January 2019 to May 2019

Newsletter



ActionAid International - DRC



drc.actionaid.org



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CONTENT:

1. Introduction
2. Campaign objective
3. Targets
4. Participants
5. Engagements and Dialogues
6. Recommendations
7. Practice and Intervention
8. Training

“To increase women’s access to land and gender-responsive public services, within a sustainable environment in the Nyiragongo Territory of the Nord Kivu Province of Democratic Republic of Congo”



INTRODUCTION

This campaign in DRC is advocating for “Pigmies”, a minority group to access productive land. They are dubbed as second-class citizens and are hired to work on people’s farm. They also depend largely on the Virunga Park for livelihood through hunting. This has exposed them to different dimensions of exploitations and physical and sexual violence and abuse from local citizens and Forest Authorities. In the last one year, ActionAid DRC is implementing an initiative to increase women’s access to and control over land and gender-responsive public services, within a sustainable environment. Through the initiative, 636 have gained access to their own with sizes ranging between 30x60 meters. 164 women also rented land where they cultivated potatoes and beans. 227 out of the 800 women mobilized were supported with 1063 kilos of potatoes and 573 women got 5 kilos of beans each.

This is a project to increase women’s access to land and gender-responsive public services, within a sustainable environment in the Nyiragongo Territory of the Nord Kivu Province of Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The project focused on mobilizing vulnerable and excluded women to increase their access to and control over land.

Campaign's objective

- Sharing the challenges and the importance of the conservation of Virunga National Park
- Getting the pygmy women involved in community conservation actions and advocate for their access to and control of land.
- Improving the management of the natural resources' conservation
- Encourage surrounding communities to get involved in community conservation



70 people of which 38 women (4 ICCN staff and 34 beneficiaries) and 32 men (4 ICCN staff and 28 Local authorities) got a 2-day training in new techniques of conservation of nature.

ActionAid is campaigning on this issue to support small holder pygmy women farmers to access productive resources and integrated into the mainstream society. The campaign is themed "*Respecter le travail des femmes autochtones: Dialogue sur les techniques modernes de conservation de la nature*" (*Respect works of indigenous women farmers – Dialogue on modern conservation techniques*) AA DRC is ensuring that small holder women pygmy farmers not only have access and secure fertile land, but are also integrated and accepted as human beings in the society.

Accomplishment

"Increased access to and control over land by women smallholder farmers"

Who are your targets?

The public in Nyiragongo and North Kivu in general the state authorities, Chieferies (traditional authorities), the religious leaders, media, women groups, CSOs. The civil society organizations involved in the defence of the rights of pygmy women FDHAPID and PIDEP but also the organizations involved in the management of natural resources around the Virunga National Park ICCN





Participants:

“Women’s group in Nyiragongo, AFDI (local NGOs, AADRC partner), Ministry of Social Affairs, environment and tourism, Ministry of Gender, Ministry of Land Affairs, DFJ (Dynamique de Femmes Juristes: women’s lawyers association), civil society in North Kivu, etc.”

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Engagements with ICCN

- Partnership meeting and official introduction of project

A meeting between ActionAid and ICCN was held in April 2019. During the meeting ActionAid and ICCN discussed about Packard foundation project phase1 and phase2. ActionAid shared the proposal and the logical framework with ICCN and an official letter requesting partnership with ICCN was written and sent to ICCN. ICCN accepted to accompany the project implementation as it reinforces their activities related to Virunga park conservation and protection.



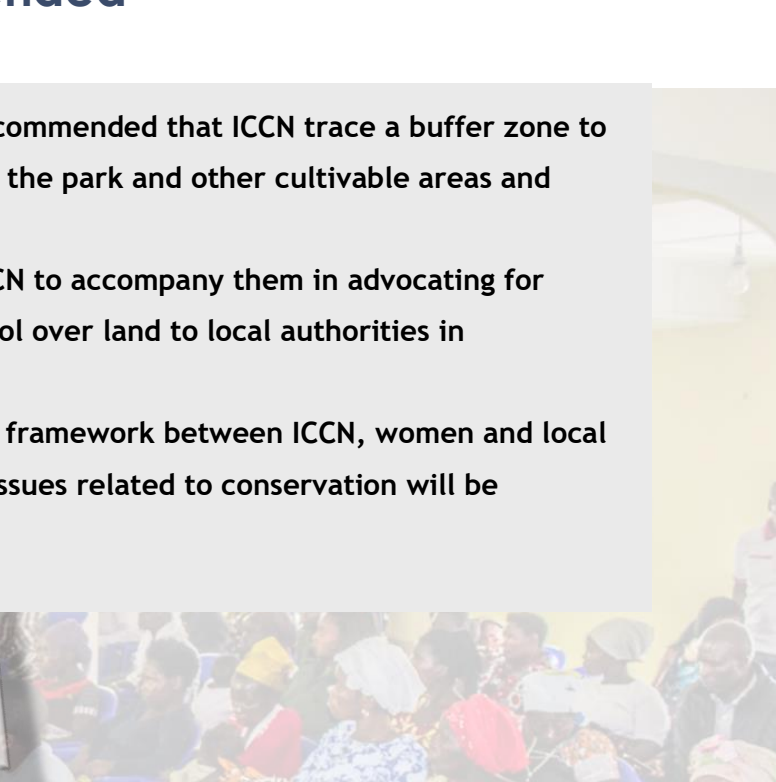
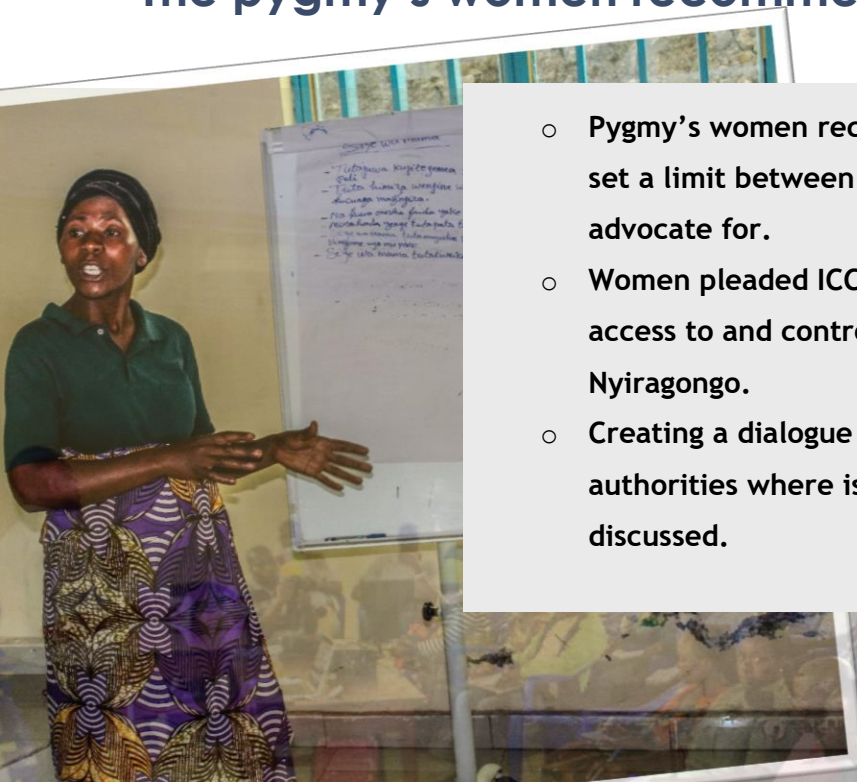
- Dialogue with ICCN, authorities and women

ActionAid in partnership with ICCN organized a training on new techniques of conservation and held dialogue with authorities and pygmies' women on promoting the protection of the environment.

“The overall objective of this workshop was to strengthen the ownership of the conservation challenges and development under the Virunga Alliance Program by stakeholders (women, local authorities, ICCN, and the population around the park).”

The pygmy's women recommended

- Pygmy's women recommended that ICCN trace a buffer zone to set a limit between the park and other cultivable areas and advocate for.
- Women pleaded ICCN to accompany them in advocating for access to and control over land to local authorities in Nyiragongo.
- Creating a dialogue framework between ICCN, women and local authorities where issues related to conservation will be discussed.



- **Some practices raised to reduce Land Pressure/ Sustainable Agricultural Practices**

- Production: Identify the most suitable types of crops: Market gardening with potatoes, beans, peas, carrots, spices (celery, peppers, etc.)
- Sustainable agronomic practices
- Crossing crops: Potatoes and peas
- Crop Association: Beans and Peanut
- Additional income: Introduces practices that increases the profit of farm field: Improved beehive Beekeeping, Human-Animal conflict mitigation techniques
- Protection of fields against damages by wild animals
- Stone walls
- Cultivation of repellent spines for predatory animals
- Electric fence: discontinuous electric wires producing sequential discharges
- Park warden and community curators: park staff responsible for maintaining dialogue with communities and supervising cultural practices.

Intervention:

- **Construction of wall and 2 huts**

- Procurement processes including technical drawings
 - A consultant has been hired and a plan for the center wall and 2 huts have been designed and shared with Actionaid.
 - A cost estimation of the wall and 2 huts construction has been produced by the consultant and shared with Actionaid.
 - An advertisement has been launched for the construction of the wall and the 2 huts.
 - A company has been selected and notified for the construction of the wall and 2 huts.

- **Construction**

The construction has started as the title deeds has been issued. An additional land has been added to initial to make a total of 30/100. A wall and 2 huts will be sent up on 50/30 m space while the additional land will serve as demonstration farm.

/ Improved gender-responsive public service provision relevant to female farmers

Training of forest guards

As discussed with ICNN during our today meeting Actionaid will contribute to the ongoing training by providing logistics support to ICCN (Actionaid should allocate the budget of 4000 UDS and ICCN will provide a clear accountably of the money transferred to them.





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