

Follow-up report Congo - CPR Idjwi, DR Kongo

Idjwi is a mountainous island in the East Congolese Kivu Lake (1460 - 2250m NN) with an area of 285km². Currently 270,000 inhabitants = 950 inhabitants per km² live here (cf. D 230, NL 410), which exert enormous pressure on natural resources, leading to deforestation, erosion, overfishing, food insecurity, inadequate infrastructure and poverty.

Over 60% of the land is owned by large landowners.

Since the island has so far been spared by warlike conflicts, in contrast to the surrounding regions, which receive massive humanitarian aid, development projects have seldom been implemented on the island, which then carry out very limited and selective projects.

There is only one NGO that has been working permanently in Idjwi North since three decades ago: the CPR (Centre de Promotion rurale) of the CBCA (Communauté Baptiste au Centre de l'Afrique), a long-standing partner of EED / BfdW.

The focus of the work is: Rural development, food security, promotion of women, health education, family planning and income-generating measures.

Since 2011 there is a new director, a dynamic young economist, who comes from the island and has a clear vision for "his" island. In 2015, he suggests organizing a PACDR/EPRACC training after attending a BfdW climate change workshop in Kisangani and recognizing the need for climate risk analysis (CRA). Climate change threatens to destroy long-term project successes and presents CPR with new challenges.

According to CPR, the **climate situation** on Idjwi has changed dramatically in recent years:

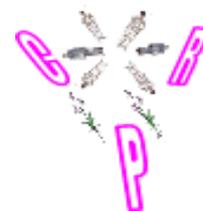
- Irregular precipitation
- Extended periods of droughts
- More frequent heavy rains and storms
- Higher day and night temperatures

The **effects** of these changes are:

- Harvest losses and increased food insecurity
- Lowering of groundwater level
- Dehydration of rivers, streams and springs
- Stronger fluctuations of the water level of Lake Kivu
- Storm damage to buildings, trees and fields

In October 2015, a CRA was carried out as part of a **PACDR training** of CPR staff in Cugi in the community of Kihumba at the northern end of the island. This time the CRA was not carried out in a single village as usual, but for a whole community, which was a (successful) experiment for the application of the PACDR. The district of Kihumba is 40 km² and includes about 20 villages. For the training-CRA 12 women and 12 men with different social and professional backgrounds from all parts of the community were invited. The mayor of the community was also present, which was very helpful in the risk analysis and the subsequent agreement of concrete steps after the training.

This CRA and the very positive feedback from the population and the political community leaders led CPR to focus project activities on this community in order to take advantage of the momentum and interest in implementing adaptation measures.



The main activities were: erosion control, reforestation, securing water sources, increasing the use of firewood-saving stoves, field experiments with new seeds, crop diversification and public events on climate change.

Encouraged by the positive experiences in Kihumba and the skills of the project staff in carrying out village analyses with the PACDR tool, CPR developed the following post-training activities:

- Preparation of the application for the 3rd project phase (BfdW) based on the analysis data from Kihumba (CCA measures, creation of an own climate change and food security department, establishment of a climate focal point), among other things
- Lobbying authorities and donors: Administrateur de Territoire (AT = District Administrator), Ministry of Agriculture, UNDP/PNUD, FAO, Agricultural Research Institute (INERA), UNICEF, etc.
- Financing of pilot projects (erosion control, terraces, afforestation, hedges) by FAO, UNDP and the provincial government
- Intensification of specific project measures: Soil improvement (compost, mulch, rotation, green fertilization), seed augmentation, erosion control, biopesticides, gardening, water reservoirs, improved cooking sites, action research measures.
- Integration of climate change into the curriculum of the agricultural high school Bugarula
- Raising the awareness of farmers' organizations with the help of the results of CRA Kihumba
- Implementation of EPRACC analyses in two other communities for the preparation of local development plans (PDL) with a focus on food security (financing: UNDP)
 - 50 participants: local leaders, civil society, environmental agency, agricultural agency, large landowners, farmers' organisations
 - 4 days each (2016)
 - Participants sign personal "Acte d'Engagement" (declaration of self-commitment with focus on prevention and CCA)
- Intensive cooperation with the administration (AT, local officials of the relevant ministries) and the Mwami (traditional boss)
- Lobbying and fundraising with the help of PDLs
- Information events in schools, church services, village meetings on the topic of CC
- Dissemination of information, exchange and discussions in the "Réseau MBR" (Agricultural Network Congo and Rwanda)
- Further development of CCA techniques, field experiments with new varieties (DSMZ), international exchange (Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, Kenya)
- Exchange on further development of the EPRACC

The **effects** of all these measures and actions are manifold:

Improved soil protection, thereby increasing yields, leading to greater food security and the possibility of marketing surpluses.

Increased involvement by authorities in the implementation of measures. For example, Idjwi is now subject to official orders (including threat of punishment and implementation!) concerning the prohibition of field fires and eucalyptus planting, the control of BXW (banana wilt) and erosion control.



Multiplication effects: Even farmers who do not belong to the project target group apply simple erosion control measures and finance from their own pockets the terracing of their fields, carried out by young people who have been trained in CPR projects.

On Idjwi, previously known as a completely deforested island, smaller forests and reforested bank protection strips are being created again.

One indirect effect is the increase in tourism, as hotel capacities have been built up in recent years and tourists are looking for "intact" nature.

The example of CPR Idjwi shows what the PACDR tool can effect when it is used by dedicated people in relevant places at the right time. The flexible use of the tool and the concrete planning and implementation of CCA projects are crucial.