

National University of Rwanda



CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF RWANDA

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INTRODUCTION

- There is a limited capacity in Rwanda and the surrounding region to offer advanced university training in conservation Biology
- CBEP directly addresses biodiversity conservation in the Arbertine Rift
- NUR is the country's main provider of post-secondary education with about 40% of the public university student rate.

Objectives

- Design an academically sound, practical, and effective undergraduate conservation biology curriculum in biology department emphasizing regional biological diversity conservation
- Create a framework for professional development to support the scholarly excellence of our instructors
- Develop a professional Msc degree program in conservation biology, including field training and career opportunities

Undergraduate program in Biology Department

- 2 Options:
 - Biotechnology
 - Conservation biology

The conservation Option offers students an interdisciplinary training in:

- Wildlife management
- Conservation policy and law
- Ecology and evolution
- Plant and animal systematics
- Conservation biology
- GIS
- ...

Cont'd

- **Some examples of student senior thesis:**
 - Ecological study of diet and behavior of the endangered and endemic Owl-faced monkeys
 - Evaluation of the daily range by mountain gorillas in PNV
 - Natural forest regeneration in burned zones in Nyungwe National Park

Cont'd

- Wildlife in protected areas; agro forestry plantations; Human-wildlife interactions.
- Feeding behavior of primates Rwanda's National Parks
- Birds of the region
- etc

Achievements since the revision of the undergraduate curriculum

- Number of the students increased
- Students more interested in Conservation Biology
- More emphasis on field work than it was before
- Opportunities for the job in the Conservation field

Resources and opportunities

- Field equipments
- More updated books
- More e-resources
- Staff development in progress
- More partners
- Biology Department more active than in the past

MSc Program in Conservation Science, wildlife Management and sustainable Development @NUR

- **Modules suggested for this program:**
 - Ecology and Conservation
 - Methods in Conservation Science
 - Global environmental change and sustainable Development
 - Human Dimensions of biodiversity conservation
 - Tropical Ecosystems and Landscape change

Cont'd

- Advanced GIS and Remote Sensing
- Environmental impact Assessment
- Professional skills for Conservation Scientists
- Managing protected areas
- Wildlife Biology and Management

Way forward

- Bring together more collaborative efforts at national, regional and international level to ensure the success of the MSc program in various aspects including education, research, etc.

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THANK YOU - MURAKOZE

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