



**TANZANIA NATIONAL PARKS
RUBONDO ISLAND NATIONAL PARK**

**OUTREACH DEPARTMENT TEACHERS' WORKSHOP
REPORT**



**Funded by Columbus Zoo
Partner: African Otter Outreach Project**

**By: Hobokela Mwamjengwa
Outreach Program Warden**

Introduction

Since 1996 the outreach department has been operating in Rubondo Island National Park. Among other activities, conservation education is provided to the communities neighboring the park. Among our conservation education activities is the establishment of conservation clubs in schools neighbouring the park. Due to various challenges the conservation clubs were not doing well in schools, even though park was providing them with education and tree nurseries equipment as part of the clubs' activities. It was discovered that it was difficult for the Outreach Programme Warden alone to do this and that is where the idea of training of environmental teachers in schools came up. These teachers will provide assistance by taking care of environmental programme activities in the schools.

Since then we were looking for funds to launch this important training for the teachers but it was difficult. Thanks to Columbus Zoo and Aquarium for their support which has made this possible. In May 2011, the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium provided Rubondo Island National Park \$10,800 to support conservation education activities.

The workshop was conducted 25.05.2011 to 27.05.2011 with the head and environmental conservation teachers from 7 schools neighboring the park participating. 25.05.2011 was the arrival day. It was held at youth hostel hall in the park, participants were accommodated at park youth hostel; food and transport were also provided. The teachers also were given an opportunity to visit different tourist attractions in the park.



Mrs. Janice Reed-Smith speaking in the workshop

Selection of participants

There are about 21 schools in villages neighbouring the park, to start with 8 schools were selected with each school providing two members (head teacher and environmental conservation teacher). Three Ward Education Officers and one district Education Officer were invited for a total of 20 participants. Fortunately Jan Reed-Smith from the African Otter Outreach Project was present during the workshop.

The objective of the workshop

The main purpose of the workshop was to provide general knowledge to head and environmental conservation teachers on environmental issues and policies as part of sensitizing them to fully participate in environmental conservation program in their schools. Our objective was to help them leave with solutions on how to improve and make environmental conservation activities in their schools sustainable .

Topics taught

The workshop was facilitated by Mr. Musa Mashishanga of Jane Goodall Roots and Shoots Institute of Mwanza and Hobokela Mwamjengwa (Outreach Program warden).

The following were topics taught:

1. Briefing about Rubondo Island National Park and TANAPA as a whole.
2. Environment
3. Human impact on environment
4. People and environment
5. Soil and soil erosion
6. Establishment of tree nursery,
7. Climatic Change (global warming)
8. How to establish conservation clubs
9. Roots and Shoots clubs



Hobokela Mwamjengwa (Outreach Warden) doing presentation during the workshop



Mr. Musa Mashishanga doing presentation during the workshop

Some of the topics required participants to divide into groups and do some assignment and discussion. On the last day; participants divided into four groups to discuss strategies on conservation education activities in their schools and produce one year action plan on conservation education program in schools. The following were the leading questions for group discussions:-

1. What were the reasons for failure of conservation education programme in their schools?
2. What can be done to make it work?
3. What will be conservation clubs in schools?

Results from discussion

Qn. 1. What were the reasons for the failure of conservation education programme in their schools?

1. Poor commitment in schools on environmental conservation.
2. Inadequate conservation education in the community
3. Poor collaboration among teachers
4. Selfishness among teachers.
5. Poor motivation in terms of payments (expect to gain something from the programme)
6. Inadequate environmental education among teachers.
7. Financial constraints.
8. Draught

Qn. 2. What to be done?

Provision of enough conservation education in schools and communities.

To sensitize teachers and village leaders to volunteer in environmental conservation activities.

1. There should be good collaboration among teachers and park staff
2. There should be collaboration with village leaders
3. There should be availability of funds to fund the programme
4. There should be supply of tree nurseries equipments.
5. Park Outreach warden should visit schools more often.

Qn. 3. What will be conservation clubs in schools?

1. Establish tree nurseries
2. Conduct park visit.
3. Provide conservation education to the community.
4. Value environmental conservation.
5. Do waste management
6. Do sports to address environmental conservation in the community.
7. Greening the school

A committee of 6 people was elected to conduct school assessment on various conservation education activities in schools. The will be formed by the teachers from:-

1. Ikuza primary school
2. Zakhia secondary school
3. Ihumilo primary school
4. Izumacheli primary school
5. Butwa primary school
6. Outreach park warden – Rubondo island National Park



Participants working in groups

One year environment conservation program in schools action plan for 2011/2012

S/N	ACTIVITY	MONTH											
		JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
2	To establish conservation club in 8 schools												
3	To establish and conduct various												

S/N	ACTIVITY	MONTH											
		JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
	conservation education activities												
4	To conduct school competition on CE activities												
5	To award winners												
6	To evaluate the program												

Conclusion

Teachers were required to have self commitment to the program and to ensure they produce monthly and quarterly reports to head teachers and Rubondo Outreach Warden on activities undertaken in clubs and school as a whole. Otherwise teachers were thankful for the park and Columbus Zoo and Aquarium to facilitate the workshop. They agreed that they received much new information concerning the environment which they didn't know before and that they received new moral to participate in environmental conservation issues not only in schools but also in the community.



Teachers in session



Teachers visiting tourist attractions in the park