



Stakeholders from Burundi and Rwanda agreed on priority interventions for immediate action on the ground under WACDEP around Lake Cyohoha Catchment, and on target institutions for capacity building

“It is time for everyone to be ready and actively participating in the implementation of WACDEP activities in Lake Cyohoha catchment” said the Governor for Kirundo Province of Burundi while officiating the planning meeting for implementing WACDEP activities in Kirundo, Burundi on the 25th of July 2013.

In Eastern Africa region the *Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP) 2011-2016* is being implemented in the Kagera basin, Burundi and Rwanda, and Lake Cyohoha transboundary catchment (*Figure 1*) in the Bugesera region (shared by Burundi and Rwanda). At catchment level, pilot activities that will enhance water security and climate resilience of communities will be implemented in the Lake Cyohoha watershed. For this purpose some level of situational analysis was carried out and some response measures identified in November-December 2012 by a multidisciplinary team of experts drawn from both countries supported by GWP-WACDEP Eastern Africa.

The objective of the meeting was to agree on immediate response measures, specific sites for implementation, responsible lead implementers and collaborations, and a timeframe.

The meeting was attended by about 35 participants (*Figure 2*) from Burundi and Rwanda, specifically community representatives, local implementing partners (government line offices, NGOs and projects) and key sectors at national level such as the ministries of water, environment, and agriculture, the WACDEP Management Teams for East Africa and for both countries including the National Training Coordinators; and the Coordination Unit based in South Africa.

Based on the findings of the situation analysis, stakeholders from Burundi and Rwanda agreed on priority interventions for immediate action on the ground around Lake Cyohoha Catchment during the planning meeting held 25 July 2013. The agreed interventions include: i) promoting adaption of biogas, solar energy and improved cook stoves; ii) rainwater harvesting and water supply facilities; iii) protection of buffer zones along the shorelines of Lake Cyohoha; v) establishing terraces and vi) building capacities of the beneficiaries on water security and climate resilience. The interventions are expected to have positive social and economic impacts on the communities in both countries, enhance their adaptive capacity and resilience and also enable them to jointly collaborate while managing the shared transboundary water and other natural resources.

During the meeting, the participants also agreed on a detailed 2013-2014 action plan that include a list of activities, specific locations within the catchment area (*Figures 3&4*), timeframe, responsible lead institutions and collaborators and mechanisms for implementation.

On 26 July 2013 the stakeholders also agreed on the list of the institutions from national and local governments which will constitute the 12 Participants of Planners and 5 Participants of Decision Makers that will be capacitated under the implementation of the WACDEP Capacity Training Programme from November 2013 to December 2014 for each target Country. The meeting also discussed how to synergise the Training Programme with other WACDEP components and Work Packages.

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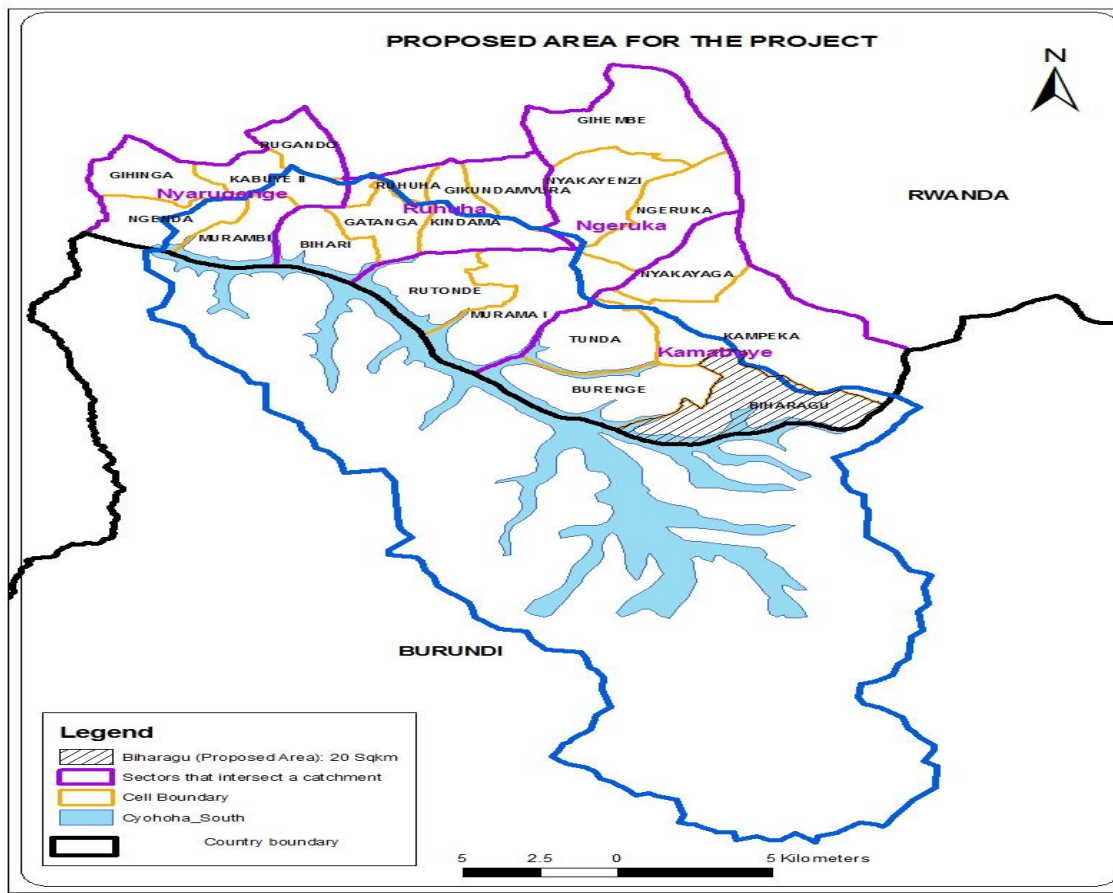


Figure 1: Lake Cyohoha Catchment



Figure 2: Participants in the meeting

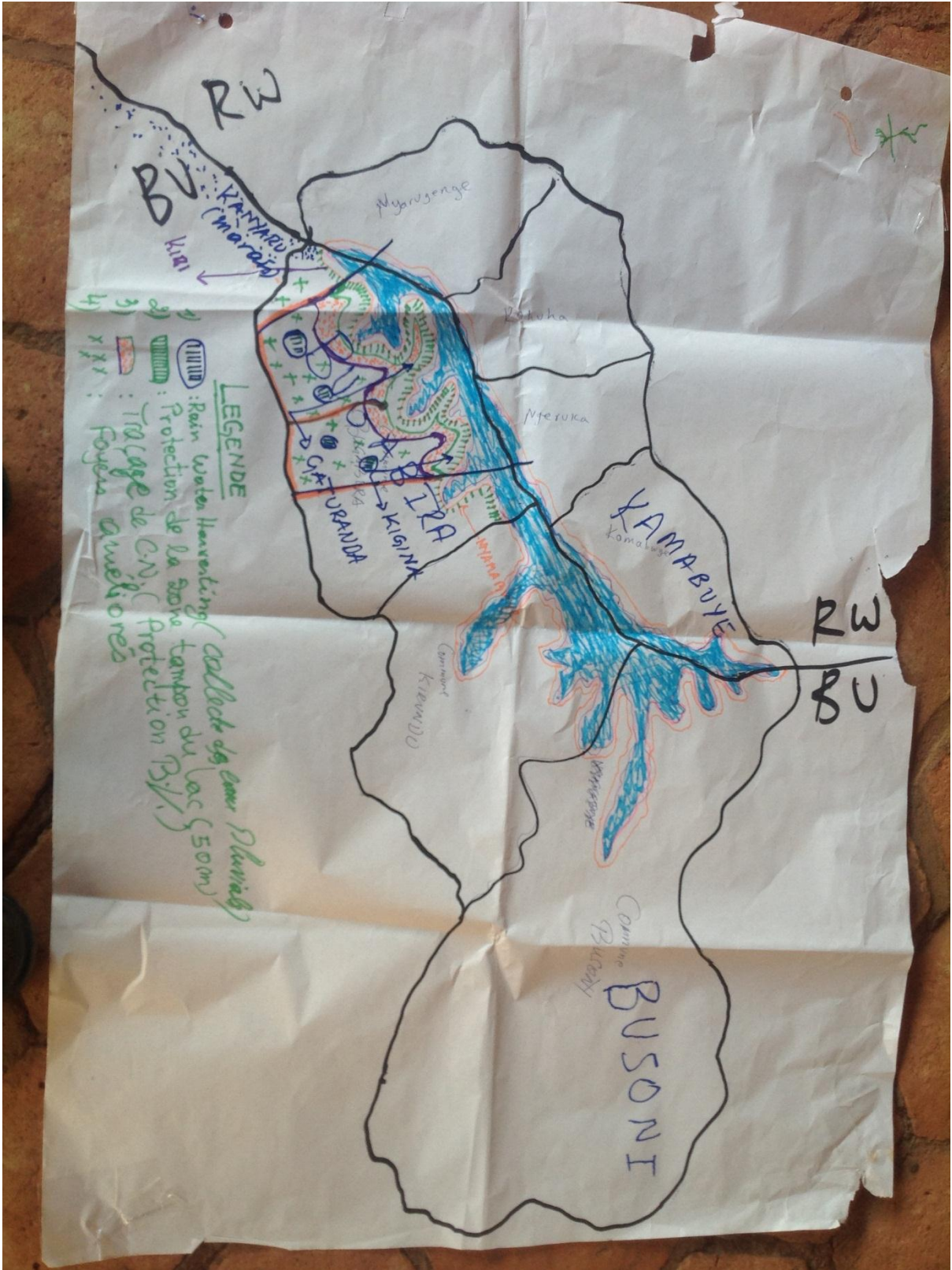


Figure 3: Participatory prioritization of Interventions on Burundi side

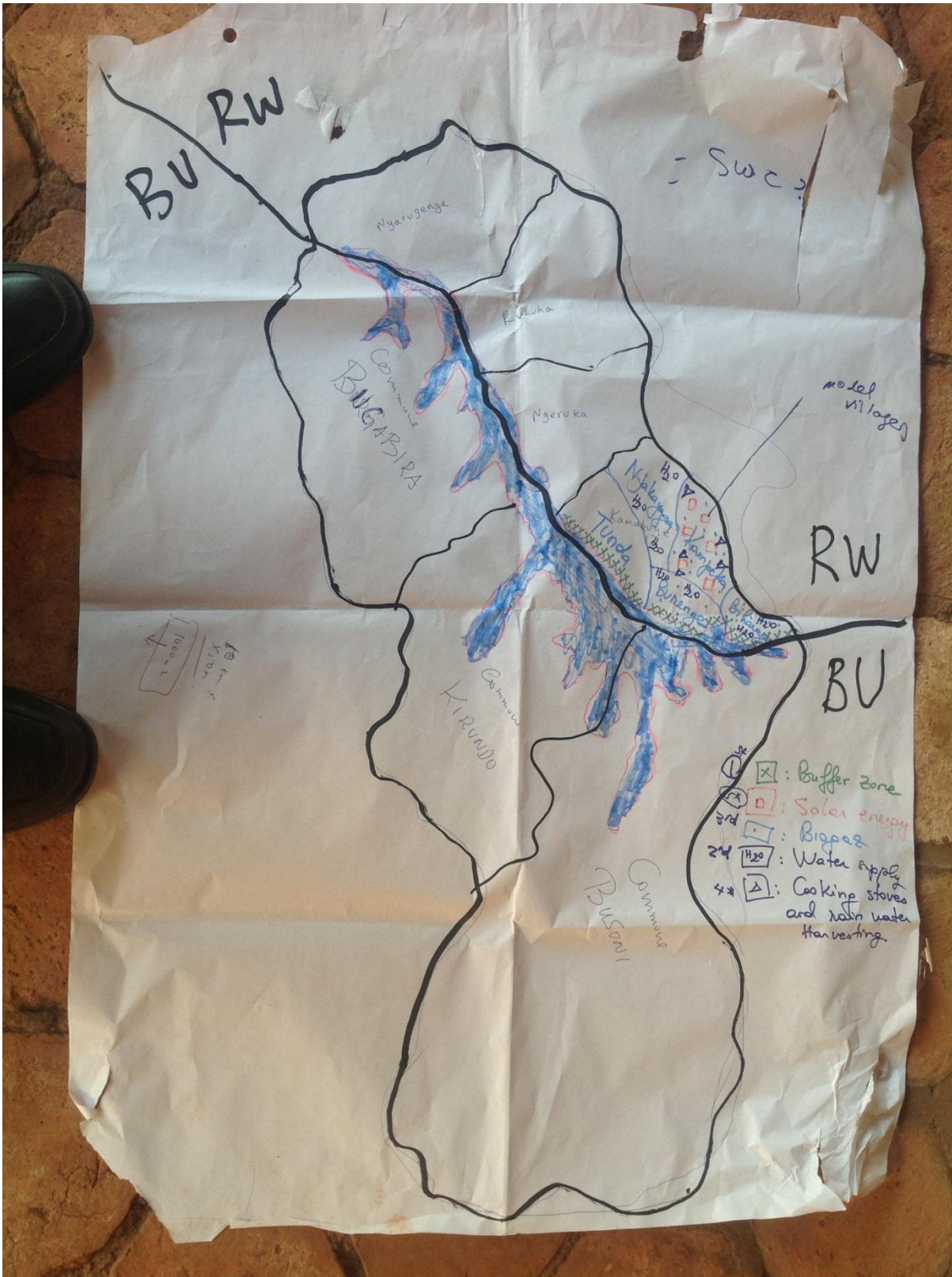


Figure 4: Participatory prioritization of Interventions on Burundi side