

## RESPOND

# SUCCESS STORY

### One Health Training Course in Wildlife, Livestock Disease and Public Health for African Ministries in Rwanda



Training participants in discussion with community members in a local village near Akagera National Park.

"I wish to thank all of the participants, trainers and management for the successful training."

*Dr. Winyi Kaboyo*  
Assistant Commissioner,  
Ministry of Health, Uganda

"It was a very fruitful meeting, and it was a pleasure to meet friends from various countries from the human-livestock-wildlife sectors. Now we can start communicating."

*Dr. Julius Keyyu,*  
Director of Research,  
Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute

"The training went exceptionally well and it evidently generated great enthusiasm among participants for the One Health approach. We will need to sustain, expand and harness this enthusiasm in order to promote One Health at local, national, regional and continental levels."

*Dr. Thomas Nyariki*  
Wildlife Expert  
African Union, Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources

During the first ten days of July, 2011, the first USAID-sponsored Wildlife Investigation, Livestock Disease and Public Health training workshop was held at Rwanda's Akagera National Park. The training was well represented by 24 professionals from several countries' Ministries of Health, Agriculture and Wildlife.

Because the ten participating countries (Botswana, Kenya, Mozambique, North Sudan, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe) have similar savanna eco-systems, the content of the training was tailored to analyze the current challenges of their landscape. Beginning with a field-site visit of the national park, facilitated by savanna ecology experts, participants were challenged to apply the One Health approach in analyzing emerging infectious disease issues. Additional field trips to local communities and a health center were included, and attendees participated in problem-based learning exercises, short lectures, and small group discussions. The main theme – **multi-disciplinary cooperation and collaboration** – permeated the workshop structure.

As a result of well-facilitated participatory learning methodologies, the training attendees were motivated to apply the learning experiences to their daily work. For example, at the end of the workshop, the participants created two products: 1) written One Health recommendations to the African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and the Rwandese authorities; and 2) a draft regional surveillance system for priority diseases using a One Health approach.

Participants also volunteered to join a One Health network to support each other in the future. This enthusiasm is testament to the power of fostering cooperation and collaboration across disciplines and agencies. The training also reflected the spirit of collaboration, as it was jointly sponsored by RESPOND, the Food and Agriculture Organization and AU-IBAR, in collaboration with the Royal Veterinary College, the Zoological Society of London, the Wildlife Conservation Society and PREDICT.