



Exercise:

Synthesis of the zones identified by a single group

March 2017

Didier Pillot
(CIRAD, France)



Group's itinerary and observations

The group has walked along a transect line which starts in the inland, in the most elevated part of the region 3, and goes slightly down to the Lake Victoria (see the map of the transect line).

The group has successively gone through six different elementary zones that it identified as somehow different, one after the other.

The first zone (3-A) seems to correspond to a wide open area, only partly cultivated. The soils are thin and the zone was qualified as “rocky”. Indeed the photos show that this zone is mostly occupied with pastures, while in the lowest depressions the soils seem thicker and can be cultivated with maize or cassava.

The second zone (3-B) is held as “sandy loam”, less occupied by cattle and more cultivated with crops like bananas or tomatoes that demand deeper soils (with higher water capacity).

Zone 3 (3-C) is described as “sandy”, but we may question this qualification. There are more mango trees (see the drawing and the photo) and bananas, which normally do not correspond to sandy soils. The presence of trees, bananas and animals, including pigs, which suggest that we are in a residential area (i.e where the houses are located, and also where the fertility is higher due to the human and animal wastes)

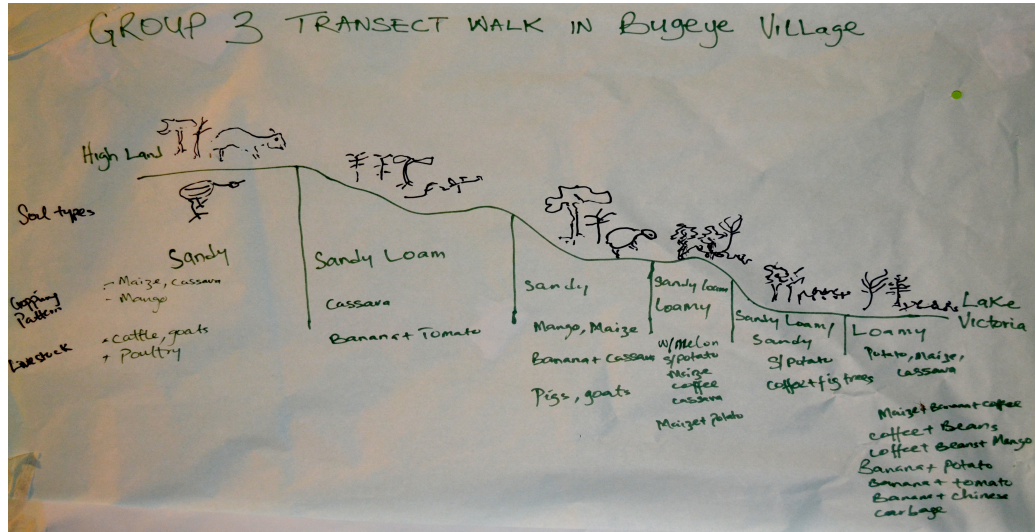
Zone 3-D, more loamy again, openfields of maize, sweet potatoe, water melon, and plots of coffee.

Zone 3-E is more sandy again, with big trees shading coffee plantations

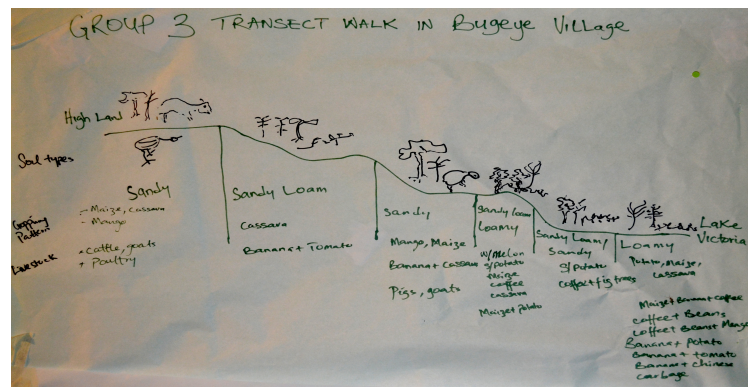
Zone 3-F, close to the lake, is the place where irrigated crops can be grown since the source of water is close; we find there intensive crops like tomatoes, cabbage, and other vegetables.

Hence we can say that the zone is diverse, the conditions of soils, depth and structure, the habitat, the access to water are the main source of diversity.

Group's itinerary and transect draw



Reduce the number of zones



N° id	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C	Zone D	Zone E	Zone F
Soil	Rocky	Sandy Loam	Sandy	Sandy Loam Loamy	Sandy Loam Sandy	Loamy
Crop	Maize Cassava Mango Pasture	Cassava	Mango Maize	Watermelon Sweet potato Maize Coffee Cassava	Sweet potato	Potato Maize Cassava
Inter cropping		Banana + tomato	Banana + Cassava	Maize + Potato	Coffee + big trees	Maize + Banana + Coffee Coffee + bean Banana + potato Banana + tomato Banana + cabbage
Livestock	Cattle, Goats, Poultry		Pig Goats			