

Project Update: February 2007

I am pleased to report that from 10th to 16th January 2007, the project team organized a week training course on sustainable natural resources management. Sixty-three people (63) participated in this course and among those who attended were training leaders and school pupils (Fig. 1). During the course, participants were taught on correct time of tree seed collection, drying, storage, nursery site selection, nursery preparation, seed multiplication, watering techniques, transplanting and reforestation techniques (Figure 2). Further, participants were also taught preparation of degraded site for rehabilitation whereby planting station should be at an interval of 50 -100 m apart.

Further, from 19th to 27th February 2007, ten consultative meetings were conducted in villages surround Lake Chilwa Wetland. The aim was to jointly brainstorm the benefits of gazetting Lake Chilwa Wetland to be a protected site. People attended the meetings agreed that indeed Lake Chilwa Wetland should be gazetted to be a wildlife reserve (Figure 3). Following this, a one day consultative workshop was organized at Hippo View Lodge. The workshop was attended by traditional leaders, government officials, church leaders and teachers (Figure 4). One of the outputs of the workshop was that people agreed that the Department of National Parks and Wildlife should draft a Policy to be forwarded to the parliament for enactment/approval in order to accord Lake Chilwa Wetland a legal status. It was believed by the participants that this would help to effectively protect the water birds which had been unsustainably killed by illegal hunters over the past years.