

## **Project Update: July 2006**

From 17th to 23rd July 2006, the project team organized and conducted consultative meetings and competitions in 20 villages bordering in Lake Chilwa Wetland basin. The purpose of the meetings and competitions was to lobby and encourage local communities, stakeholders and representatives of the beach village community particularly women and young girls to actively participate in the management and conservation of the wetland ecosystem and biological resources especially the water birds which are under threat in the area.

We are, therefore, pleased to report that more women and girls turned up in good numbers and took part in the competitions. In the process, many women and young girls were able to express their interest to actively take part in the implementation of the project activities.

The organized competitions were marked by three best women who won each and assorted packet of gifts containing 5kgs of tree indigenous trees, 3 packets of sugar, 2 packets of kitchen salt and one book on how can we establish tree nursery at household level. Similarly, three best men also won same gifts and this encouraged many women and young girls to take part in the conservation of the wetland in the area.