

## **Project Update: June 2006**

From 12th to 24th June 2006, the project team visited 42 villages in six Traditional Authorities (T.A) in Lake Chilwa Wetland basin. The purpose of the visit was to sensitize and mobilize local communities, stakeholders and representatives of the beach village community to form natural resources management committees (nrmcs) and wildlife clubs (wcs) whose aim will be to enforce wildlife by-laws, to control illegal killing of water birds and other animals in and around Lake Chilwa Wetland basin and to rehabilitate the degraded areas of the ecosystem.

We are pleased to report that after the successful sensitization meetings we had with local communities, stakeholders and traditional leaders; 31 nrmcs and 24 wcs were established in T.A. Mposa, Mwambo, Kumtumanji, Nazombe, Chikowi and Mkumbira. Each management group formed elected office bearers which comprise a chairman and a secretary. These officers will be responsible for drawing up management and conservation programmes and activities for their groups. It was also pleased to note that each group had a good representation of women. The formation of these wildlife management groups will, therefore, significantly help to conserve and safeguard the threatened biodiversity and the environment in the area.