

Project Update: November 2005

The following progress has been made since the grant was received in July 2005. The activities undertaken so far are itemised below;

1. Inception meeting of the Mbololo/Mwambirwa Forest Association is convened. The purpose was to inform the members of the association of the grant received from the Rufford Foundation and how it will be used to further the function of the association. In addition, the meeting also agreed on a schedule of activities.

2. Drafting of the Articles of Association was done through a series of meetings. The first meeting dealt on i) what the "Articles of Association" is all about and why they are important, ii) the process of drafting of the Articles of Association, and iii) a brainstorming session on what they would like captured in their "Articles of Association". The second meeting involved the election of an interim committee that will work closely with me and my colleagues in the drafting of the Articles of Association. The third and fourth meetings (with the elected interim committee) dealt with the drafting of the Articles of Association. The fifth meeting finalised the Articles of Association. The typed Articles of Association were presented to the interim officials for verification and adoption. On the sixth meeting, the officials adopted the Articles of Association, and we proceeded with the filling of the application form for registration as MWAMBO Forest Association. This application has been submitted and we are awaiting the government response.

3. Currently, discussions are on-going regarding the creation of a secretariat and how it will be managed.