

Project Update: March 2017

I am glad to report to you on the progress of my project:

- I have successfully set up a nursery bed for raising cycad seedlings. Approximately 4,000 seeds were planted in the 24 beds.
- The project has raised interest from the relevant authorities especially the National Forestry Authority and the District Local Government with the talk now about how to consolidate the achievements.
- There is great awareness and vigilance among the community.

Challenges:

The nursery bed establishment delayed because the seed was not yet mature

Emerging issues:

- (1) The community group that is raising the cycads is now preparing to register at the district as a Community Based Organization (CBO) to advocate for cycad and environment conservation generally.
- (2) There is also a need for profiling the activities of this community in form of a short film (documentary) for teaching other communities about community based conservation
- (3) There is need to train communities on fire management to minimise the incidences of wild fires that ravage the area annually
- (4) There is also a glaring need to undertake an exchange visit to a well organized community based conservation and eco-tourism site (for example <http://www.bigodi-tourism.org/1701.html>). This will accelerate sharing of experiences and lessons on how best the community can generate incomes from eco-tourism
- (5) There is an emerging need to equipping the community group (members) with skills in income generating activities e.g. craftseco-tourism



Pre-treated cycad seeds ready for planting



The National Forestry Authority Sector Manager (yellow) gives guidelines on cycad planting



Community members watering the cycad beds



Community group secretary (Kabanga Steven) roll calling members register