

## Project Update: September 2010

From the first week of September 2010, we acquired a resource centre that will be used to coordinate the activities of FOWCON and ONRU-WRUA and also to publish our quarterly newsletter, *The Bog*. The centre is in Kikuyu Town but it is hoped that this is a temporary centre pending the acquisition of a bigger centre near the swamp. The first issue of our newsletter, *The Bog* is ready and it covers the months of August, September and October 2010. It also covers the registration of the water resource users association. At the same time, we have embarked on experimental propagation of giant bamboo following findings that bamboo seedlings are very difficult to get in the country and even when they are available, they are too expensive. The propagation is still ongoing and an expert from the Kenya Forestry Research Institute has agreed to offer advisory services on a voluntary basis. FOWCON has already started its own tree nursery in the banks of the swamp and a number of indigenous tree varieties are being successfully propagated. A few conflicts are starting to arise and these may pose a threat to conservation efforts. Among these is fish farming which is being funded by the Kenyan Government under the Economic Stimulus Package. Due to its abundant fresh water supply, the swamp is being seen as an attractive site for fish farming by a number of riparian owners and they have dug several fish ponds. However, it is hoped that the water resource users association will provide a forum for conflict resolution and transformation so that these activities are integrated into the broader conservation effort. This may be done by encouraging visitors to the swamp to fish in the ponds for a fee and pay for the fish they catch.

