

Project Update: January 2007

1. INTRODUCTION

This update report focuses on the events between **October 2006** and early **January 2007**. The events include;

- ❖ School patrons meetings
- ❖ Community outreaches
- ❖ Internal LVSBS meetings
- ❖ Working with the media for publicity and awareness creation.

2. SCHOOL PATRONS' MEETINGS

Since the project began, two meetings for school patrons have been held so far. The first workshop was designed to inform the patrons about the objectives of the project and to enable them understand their role in ensuring that the projects are owned by the schools. The second meeting was designed to form a patrons' committee and then develop terms of reference for the committee. We are currently embarking on facilitating the involvement of schools in environmental conservation setting up a process for schools involvement.

3. COMMUNITY OUTREACHES

These included awareness creation through community Barazas (public forums) and community football tournaments. So far, three community meetings have been held in November and December with two football tournaments involving eight teams in the same months. The teams involved each of 15 players involved four ladies teams and four men's teams covering areas of Dunga beach and Nyamthoe areas of Dunga wetland. This was to ensure that there was balance in gender so as to reach all age groups and sexes. The finals of the tournament are to be held in April 2007. The teams involved are;

- ❖ SALMODEYA (WOMEN'S TEAM)- NAMTHOE
- ❖ MANGO (WOMEN TEAM) – NAMTHOE
- ❖ WHITE WARRIORS TEAM (MEN'S TEAM) – NAMTHOE
- ❖ RED DEVILS (MEN'S TEAM) – NAMTHOE
- ❖ NANGA FC (MEN'S TEAM) – DUNGA
- ❖ WIGWA STRIKERS (MEN'S TEAM) – DUNGA

4. PROJECT PLANNING

This involved all LVSBS members. Initially before the start of the community and school outreaches, members had been trained on issues of efficient project management between 24th and 29th of October 2006. We have been holding several meetings with members and other partners to ensure that the best approach is given to every process in the project.

5. WORKING WITH THE MEDIA

We have been working with the Lake Victoria Radio to help in creating more awareness to the public about Dunga swamp and also to publicize our other activities that are geared towards Dunga wetland conservation. We have had two publicity sessions so far with the radio Lake Victoria and we are still to have five more.

6. CONCLUSION

Emphasis was given more to the community outreaches in the previous year while for the schools, mostly ground breaking was done to ensure ownership of the projects by the schools. The project also started just when the school term was nearing the end. This year though, many activities will focus on schools as well.