

## **Project Update: June 2007**

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

'The future of conservation is the youth of the today's upbringing.' (Peter Nyamenya - National Museums of Kenya, Kisumu). The community components identified to be user cum dissemination groups were; schools, village environment committees and self-help groups such as widow groups. The quarter had activities ranging from community sensitization to establishment of structures that could keep the project sustainable. Follow - ups also made it easy to successfully achieve the preset objectives. The L.V.S.B. group was capacity built to facilitate and to affect the process of project management. The stakeholder involvement was maximal as well as the administrative support, which made it possible to approach the community with ease.

### **PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

#### **L.V.S.B. Training**

Just at the start of the project, training was organized for LVSB members through a workshop facilitated by Nature Kenya staff. The training mainly focused on equipping **15 LVSB** members involved in the project with skills that will enable them to effectively carry out their roles for achievement of project goals. The areas of focus included financial management and accountability, community mobilization skills and project activity planning.

#### **School Programs**

##### Patrons' planning meetings.

So far since the project begun, six patrons meetings and workshops have been held. A patrons committee led by a chairman, secretary and treasurer has been set up and terms of reference for the committee developed. The meetings had purposely been designed to plan future school activities in the project. The terms of reference were developed by LVSB project committee together with the project school patrons and they focused on the sustainability of the school programs. They also envisioned the future involvement of more schools in the program.

##### School activities

Several activities have been organized and done by the schools. So far, each of the four project schools have had two project site visits (Dunga swamp education site visit and the LVSB Village Agro-forestry Learning Resource Center), essay writing award, inter – schools debate and training on tree nursery and waste management in schools.

#### **Community Outreach**

The community outreach was mainly done via community meetings such as chief barazas, media (Osienala Radio), Sports (football and boat races), Drama and puppetry, T - shirts. Awareness on important issues related to the conservation of the wetland was disseminated in such avenues. This was geared towards buying the community's involvement in the conservation of the same. Mobile education units were also used to extend conservation education to the community. Soccer tournaments were also held both in Dunga and Nyamasaria areas; these were used as social forums for buying the community's participation in the conservation. The local churches such as Kisumu East S.D.A., Nyamasaria Coptic church and Baptist churches were also reached out in the same exercise. The table below summarizes the community awareness program so far.

ACTIVITY	PARAMETERS
CHURCH OUTREACHES	FOUR
CHIEF BARAZAS ATTENDANCE	THREE
MARKET OUTREACHES	TWO
VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS	SIX
FOOTBALL MATCHES	FOUR
T- SHIRTS (“walking posters”)	<b>300 T-shirts</b> printed & distributed to the community.
Radio presentations	<b>6 presentations aired on radio lake Victoria since the start of project</b>

### The World Wetland Day

This was an international day celebration done on every 2<sup>nd</sup> of February annually. This was used as a catchment of a very wide area and thus was attended by most of the stakeholders who played a major role in the dissemination of conservation education as well as psyching up the conservation efforts by the L.V.S.B. group in their different projects. A clean up was also done to introduce an environment friendly attitude to the community. The table below is a summary of the impacts of the event.

ACTIVITY	PARAMETERS
MOBILIZATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Twenty two community groups and stakeholders attended the event including guests from National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), The District Fisheries Department, the Kenya Wildlife Service, Kisumu city Council, Kisumu Science Teachers’ Otter Conservation Group.</li> </ul>
Clean-up at the beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>100 bags</b> of garbage collected at Dunga beach by participants</li> </ul>
Boat race	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Five boats each with seven rowers were involved in the race. Three boats were declared winners of the event. The guest of honour from the fisheries department flagged off the event.</li> </ul>
Drama and skits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eco-finder drama movement drew many community people to the event through skits relevant to Dunga wetland and Lake Victoria conservation.</li> </ul>
Speeches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speeches were mainly from guests and other community members flagged off by LVSB members.</li> </ul>

### Conclusion

The focus of most activities since **January 2007** has been school programs which have included patrons meetings and school pupils’ activities that included site visits, essay writing, debates and visits to the

LVSBS demonstration center. The community activities have included meetings with village elders, chief barazas, community football tournaments whose finals are due to be held on **14<sup>th</sup>/04/2007**, public awareness to churches and market places.

Through the project, we have managed to reach approximately **160 school** pupils directly and at least **500 pupils** in each of the four project schools indirectly. We have also managed to reach at least fifteen teachers from each of the four schools with the environmental conservation message.

We have also managed to reach more than a total population **of 2000 community members** through the already established Village Environment Committees and the many activities organized under this project which include the football tournament, the church and market outreaches and the chief and other community meetings.

### **Future plans**

The project implementation in schools is ongoing with the supervision of LVSBS project staff. The new school term will start with a learning exchange program between the schools with an aim of promoting best practices among the schools. This will be done in the month of May.

The major community activities have been done. At this stage, follow up is paramount. LVSBS monitoring team will be implementing the task come end of March.