

## Project Update: August 2009

We have worked with our partners, Environmental Alert to further build the capacity of the community association (Mabamba Wetland Eco-tourism Association MWETA). Under this, the following has been achieved:

**I. Training on Organisation Development:** A consultant was engaged who carried members of MWETA and other community leaders through the stages of organisation development and group dynamics. As one of the immediate outcomes, MWETA members realised the need for institution reviews which have been made in order to streamline the operations of the Association.

**II. Training of Tourist Guides:** Nine tourist guides were trained in aspects of community eco-tourism. This training was facilitated by trainers from Nature Uganda who were identified by Environmental Alert. The guides are now involved in guiding tourists.

**III. Exposure Visit to Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary:** Members of MWETA, local leaders and representatives of Nature Palace Foundation and Environmental Alert made an exposure visit to this successful community tourism project. A number of lessons were learnt, which informed the 3-months Action Plan by MWETA aimed at improving its Eco-tourism Activities. A copy of Action Plan is hereby attached.

### **ACTION PLAN FOR IMPROVING MWETA ACTIVITIES BASING ON LESSONS LEARNT FROM EXPOSURE VISIT.**

Action Points	Aim/Output	Responsible Person	Time-Frame
1. Organise meeting for all members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Giving feedback on Exposure Visit</li></ul>	MWETA Information Secretary	6 <sup>th</sup> Sept 09
2. Meeting Buyege Catholic Parish Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Streamline land issues and improve relations in regard to land issues</li></ul>	Chairperson MWETA	Sept 09
3. Organise Awareness and Education Program for neighbouring communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Promote participation of all</li><li>Promote Conservation of the Resource by all</li><li>Everybody to know how he/she benefits</li></ul>	Chairperson MWETA	Oct 09
4. Improving skills for Guides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>More effective Guides</li><li>More satisfied tourists</li></ul>	Guides Group Chairperson	Nov 09
5. Improving Handcrafts Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Produce Handcrafts that appeal to tourists</li><li>Increased Income for members and the Association</li></ul>	Handcrafts Group Chairperson	Oct 09
6. Improving Standard of Drama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Drama Group to be used as an</li></ul>	Drama Group chairperson	Oct 09

group	effective tool for Community Awareness and education		
7. Improving of Record Keeping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Records/Data should be able to give tourist trends</li> <li>Improved transparency of MWETA</li> </ul>	Secretary MWETA	Sept 09
8. Identifying other tourist attractions in the Community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce reliance on one attraction (birds)</li> <li>Attract more tourists</li> <li>Achieve participation of more community members in tourism activities</li> </ul>	Committee Advisor MWETA	Sept 09
9. Work on Outlook of Centre and Eco-tourism Information Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved Sanitation</li> <li>Improved security e.g. By fencing</li> </ul>	Committee Advisor, MWETA	Sept 09

