

Project Update: June 2021

Since reporting in February 2021, we have carried out the following activities

- Boundary marking.
- Erecting concrete pillars.
- Planting indigenous trees.

Boundary Marking: We worked with District Surveyor and Environment Officer to mark wetland boundaries. This included taking GPS points and erecting live marks. During the exercise, we talked to individual landowners neighbouring the wetland about its boundaries and buffers, and how these would be marked. We requested neighbours to observe the boundaries while not carrying out prohibited activities such as farming beyond the boundaries



The District Surveyor (in a Reflector) with the team marking wetland boundaries

During this exercise, we intercepted a challenge where some of the locals thought that they were going to be evicted from their land. We however talked to them and to their leaders informing them that all we didn't want was encroachment on the wetland boundaries or carrying out prohibited practices in the wetland such as crop farming, illegal collecting of resources especially in large quantities, charcoal burning and others



The project Coordinator having a discussion with one of the local farmers who had encroached on the wetland during the exercise

Erecting Concrete Pillars: Marking boundaries was followed by erecting concrete pillars in areas already marked.

The pillars were planted 50 m apart in rugged areas and in areas where the boundaries were flat, the pillars were planted 100 m apart. So far, 300 pillars have been planted/erected.



Local personnel planting a pillar at the wetland Boundary in presence of local community members to prevent encroachment



A Pillar planted between wetland and a local farm /Garden

Planting indigenous trees: Wetland neighbours were there after given indigenous trees to plant in between the pillars. We distributed 800 tree seedlings to 70 farmers neighbouring the wetland. One of the team members who acted as a resource person in the tree planting activity guided the local farmers of how to plant the trees and will work closely with them to ensure that the trees are cared for and grow well. *Markhamia* species was mainly planted between the pillars to mark the boundary while other species like *Prunus africana*, *Maesopsis eminii* and *Polycius fulva* were planted in degraded areas to help the wetland recover.



Left: One of the local farmers planting an indigenous tree between his farm and wetland boundary. **Right:** A *Markhamia* tree planted between pillars.