

## **Project Update: May 2008**

1) On 6th of May, I, the Chairman of DAP held a meeting with the Kibaale District Technical Planning Committee (KDTPC) of 20 members. He introduced the concept of conservation and protection natural resources with particular emphasis on Chimpanzees. The concept was welcomed and they promised to include it in their 5- year development plan and forward it to the District Council for approval.

2) On the 23rd of May as a follow up to the above activity, I held a seminar for 32 District Councillors and 22 top civil servants. The purpose of the seminar was to introduce to the councillors the concept of conservation and eco-tourism development not only based on the chimpanzees but also on the magnificent natural attraction available in the entire district.

As a sign of support, they referred the matter to the KDTPC to work with the Chairman of DAP to draw a plan for assessment of possible sites. Six councillors invited the Chairman of DAP to their sub counties to sensitize their communities about the importance of chimpanzees in their areas. The councillors also reported the presence of other historical and archaeological sites of interest in their areas which can be developed for eco-tourism.

3) From 16th – 18th May, a group of land owners from Kasambya sub county on whose land are several families of chimpanzees were taken on study tour to Fortportal, Kamwenge, Kasese Districts. The purpose of the tour was to enable community members have hands-on interaction with similar communities in those districts who are conserving chimpanzees while benefiting from eco tourism and other sustainable activities other than agriculture.

Two striking results of the tour:

a) The group immediately agreed to form an association and mobilize their colleagues to protect the chimpanzees on their land. The area was immediately named the Kayirabwa Community Chimpanzee Sanctuary. The association was named Kayirabwa Community Chimpanzee Sanctuary Association, (KCCSA);

b) The group also learnt a lot on sustainable activities and agreed to a beekeeping project and a tree planting nursery. Other activities will include handicrafts the women's groups and mobilization of other land owners to join the association;

DAP has planned a large meeting for all land owners and other stakeholders for the 28th June 2008.

4) DAP has also organized a 14-man/woman drama group. Its name is Dap Vision Eco-Dramactors Group. Currently they are undergoing training and are being equipped. They will make their first drama presentation on 28th June 2008.