

## **Project Update: September 2008**

A first Rufford Small Grant was received in July 2008 and the permission to conduct a project was given. Major activities done includes formal meeting with key partners and establishment of village environmental committees. The meeting was held and representatives from education, natural resources, livestock, land planning, local government, traditional leaders and pastoralist's communities sectors attended. Lake Natron is surrounded by 9 villages and 4 villages namely Lumbwa, Alaililai, Magadini and Engaresero were selected to be focus areas in the project.

In these villages, inception meetings have been done, primary schools (4) visited, environmental committees established, potential educators and traditional leaders identified. A community based organization (CBO) 'Ilkisongo Pastoralists Initiatives' (IPI) has been identified as partner in the implementation of the activities. The main challenge experienced is the accessibility to the focus villages. There is hardly public transport to the areas and needs hiring a 4WD car (~ £107/day) which is relative expensive.