

Project Update: August 2008

1. Aim of the project:

The aim of this project is to promote community participation in the sustainable conservation of Palabek-Kal forest reserve and to evaluate the economic and environmental prospects for the forest reserve.

2. Activities undertaken:

27th July - 17th Aug 2008: mobilization and sensitization of people living in and around Palabek Kal forest reserve.

Soon after getting information that this project grant to support sustainable community conservation of Palabek-Kal forest reserve in Kitgum District, Northern Uganda had been approved, I started mobilizing and sensitizing the community living in and around the forest reserve about the relevance of this project as well getting them involved fully in the decision making, planning and management of their project. These mobilization and sensitization activities were carried out on weekends of 27th July to 17th Aug. With the help of two field assistants (volunteers) and community local leaders, we launch the project and addressed over 200 people in 5 separate villages (Ayyu, Center, Kapeta). With the help of “Kuc ber” drama group, during each meeting members were told to actively participate in the conservation of the forest land so as to be able to derive additional benefit, that will go along away in improving their livelihoods. I informed them about the aim and significance of this project in the area.



21st - 31st Aug 2008: Consultative meeting with community members and project development

Weekly villages meetings (5) were conducted, the main aim of these meetings was to collect people's views concerning their roles in conserving forest ecosystems (past, present and future prospect), relevance of such conservation to their livelihoods, assess their level of knowledge and introduce forest and environmental conservation policies. The local communities' leaders in the areas helped in mobilization of the people. About 100 people living around and within the forest reserve were the participants. While community forestry officer from Kitgum local government was present to inform the people about need for forest conservation.

30th August: project site survey and formation of management committee.

I did project site survey together with local leaders of Ayuu, Palabek, Kapeta and Piabwor villages. People living with this forest land were urged to embark on clearing the area in preparation for the beehives planting and nursery bed preparation. They elected their group leaders and project site managers.

3. Results/Findings:

The community members are very excited about the project. They promised to dedicate their time and energy to see their project achieved the goals and changes their lives. The project has already attracted the attention of other community members living in near by forest reserves in other part of the district and they are currently requesting for the initiation similar project.