

**Project Update: November 2011**

During September and October 2011 we administered questionnaires to 76 local residents aged 18 – 70. The questionnaires aimed at gathering information to assess the utilisation of the wetlands by the community and the impacts of these activities on the ecosystem.

We have gathered information on the local communities' perception of wetland ownership, direct and indirect benefits obtained from the wetlands, identified which activities and how such activities impact negatively on the wetlands, identified potential sources of conflict which may arise over access and exploitation of the wetland resources and how such conflicts can or should be managed and resolved and suggestions on alternative sustainable wetland utilisation activities and how such activities can / should be implemented. The questionnaires are currently being analysed. A 2-day training seminar for key stakeholders will be held in January 2012.