

## **Project Update: February 2009**

### **Activities Achieved**

#### **Confirmation of Stakeholders**

This project is focused mainly on building new and strengthening old partnerships for Dunga swamp. This is to be done through organization of various stakeholder meetings. Various stakeholders were thus consulted and briefed about the aim of the project, the importance of their involvement and how they could be involved. The following stakeholders have so far been consulted and some are already involved in the project:

- Schools- St. Vitalis Nanga primary, Joel Omino, Xaverian and Agakhan primary schools
- Community Based Organizations- Lake Victoria Sunset Birders, Dunga Ecotourism and Environment team, Jonam Ecotourism group, Beach Management Unit, Dunga and Nyamasaria Village Environment Committees.
- Government Institutions- Kenya Wildlife Service, National Environmental Management Authority, Kisumu City Council.
- Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs)- Nature Kenya, Wildlife Clubs of Kenya

#### **2. Initial Contact with Corporates**

Seven corporate companies were contacted and detailed about the project objectives and how they could be involved. They included;

- Kenya airways
- Banks-Corporative Bank, Diamond Trust Bank,
- Nakumatt
- Davis and Shirliff
- Zain Mobile company
- Nation Media Group

Three which include Kenya Airways, Cooperative Bank and Davis and Shirliff have shown interest in participating in this course of action to help conserve Dunga swamp. A follow-up meeting has been planned for February.

#### **3. Training Workshop For Wetland Wardens And Scouts**

**Twenty** Dunga wetland scouts and wardens were trained in a workshop held on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2008 at the Wildlife Clubs of Kenya western region office. Participants were representatives from five Community Based Organizations, two schools, and government agencies such as the Kenya Wildlife Service, Kisumu City Council and the Nongovernmental Organizations like the Wildlife clubs of Kenya, Lake Victoria sunset Birders and the East African Ecological Society who offered technical guidance for the training.

#### **4. Learning Exchange Trip to Kikuyu Escarpment**

A learning exchange trip for Dunga community representatives to Kereita forest was undertaken between 29<sup>th</sup> January 2009 and 1<sup>st</sup> February 2009. This has been designed to help participants draw lessons from best environmental practices by Kereita Environment Volunteers.14 community

representatives among them the two location chiefs were involved in the trip. Lessons drawn from the trip are;

#### 5. Lake Victoria Sunset Birders Website Updates

The LVSBS website is currently under new design to market Dunga for ecotourism in order to promote sustainable utilization of its resources like birds, the culture and the scenery. The new web address will be [www.lakevictoriasunsetbirders.org](http://www.lakevictoriasunsetbirders.org)

#### **Challenges**

None of the planned six networking forums have been held so far because of the difficulties we have faced in mobilizing the corporate companies for these forums. We have therefore had to postpone the forums until we have managed to convince them to participate in the project.

#### **Future Plans;**

We have had to develop a separate work plan considering the various changes on the ground we had not anticipated earlier. These changes have mainly been caused by the delays by the private sector in honoring their pledges to support various activities in the project like the production of the school environmental magazine. We have thus had to delay the production because its sustainability will mainly be pegged on the involvement of the private sector. This call for their involvement from the onset. The following is our plan of action for the next nine months:

Activity	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct
Joint workshops for partners		X	X	X	X	X	X		
Training of Wetland scouts		X							
Planning for & Production Environmental magazine	X	X							
LVSBS website update	X								
Web marketing for Dunga	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Project monitoring		X			X				
Quarterly reports			X			X			
Project Evaluation								X	
Final reporting									X

#### **Conclusion**

Despite the challenges encountered especially with involving the private sector in project activities, we foresee success in many other aspects of the project. Similar update reports will be reported on a quarterly basis.