

Oreret Erasmus Tukei 45792-1 - Project Field Activities Brief.

Since the grant disbursement, we have successfully carried out a number of foundational activities:

1. **Stakeholder Engagement & Project Launch:** On 27th June 2025, we officially launched the project through a stakeholder meeting that brought together district officials, local leaders, wetland users, and school representatives. The engagement helped generate local ownership and contextualized input on Shoebill and wetland conservation.
2. **Field Surveys & Habitat Mapping:** We have conducted initial Shoebill habitat assessments across critical zones in the wetland catchment. Notably, we sighted Shoebills in two priority areas, confirming their presence and guiding our future conservation focus. Our field observations also highlighted key threats such as wetland burning and illegal hunting, especially during the breeding season.
3. **Community Surveys & Engagement:** In-depth interactions with fishermen, herdsman, papyrus harvesters, and women revealed strong traditional knowledge and positive attitudes towards Shoebill conservation. We are documenting their insights to integrate into future awareness and livelihood activities.
4. **Training of Citizen Scientists:** We have trained four lead local citizen scientists together with their respective zonal teams in bird monitoring techniques. They have since commenced structured monitoring and are reporting field-based observations that we are compiling.

You can view a selection of project photos and field highlights via the following link: ([Oreret Erasmus Tukei 45792-1 - Field Pictures](#)). The photos were taken by Tukei Samuel Onep.

More details will be captured in the midterm report that will be shared in the next few couple of weeks.