

Project Update: June 2012

Seminars

For 2 days in each target village, the teaching has been done about:

- Threats to the Lake Tanganyika (destruction of species habitat, non sustainable fishing, excessive sedimentation);
- Importance of the lake ecosystem and its protection;
- Ecosystem restoration (planting of reeds);
- Organisation of a local group.

There were 20 participants at Munene, 25 at Mkwechi, and 25 Lweba. Bishop Mabwe Lucien and Bisect were trainers.

Sensitization

The 72 trainers have passed the lessons learned in their respective villages and provided reports of awareness. Mbeki sensitisers held public meetings and distributed 80 brochures and took 150 posters. Radio Muja (Baraka) and Radio Swim aired eight programmes on threats of the Lake Tanganyika, the importance of Lake Ecosystem and its protection.

Plantation.

The area planted by the village Munene is currently 800 m, that of Mkwechi 700 m and 900 m for Lweba.

Each village chose the hours and days of planting.

Difficulties:

- The winds and waves were intense during the first quarter and frequently uprooted planted cuttings. Whenever there is uprooting, it is replanted endlessly. The lake will subside by mid-August 2012.
- Some fishermen of Munene and Mkwechi have increased their activity on the field of plantation, which was removed seedlings. We have increased awareness sessions.
- It is currently difficult to count the number of cuttings planted as many are torn. We will count those that have germinated and which cannot be uprooted by the winds and waves.

Organisation

Three local groups have been created and choose their committees. The group of Munene has 25 members; Mkwechi grassroots has 30 members and that of Lweba 30 members. To consolidate their base groups and for the sustainability of the project, the group of Munene breed ducks, Mkwechi grassroots farm a palm grove and Lweba launched a sewing workshop with 2 sewing machines.

