

Project Update: January 2014

Introduction

This report covers the period from 15th July 2013 to 15th January 2014. During this period the main project activities were initiated. These activities were:

1. Training

Training seminars were conducted in the three target villages (Munene Mkwechi and Lweba). These seminars were designed to train participants on the problems of sedimentation of the lake, unsustainable fishing and the fight against the effects of climate change. These training sessions have been busy: 38 participants at Munene, 33 at Mkwechi and 29 at Lweba.

2. Sensitisation

Three hundred posters were displayed and 150 brochures were distributed on the various themes of the preservation of the lake and its biodiversity. Seven messages were broadcast to Swima and Baraka. Our local groups together with Mleci Team sensitised entire populations of these three villages.

3. Fight against sedimentation and climate change

a. Nursery

We have established a nursery in September 2013 in order to plant trees. Unfortunately this nursery was destroyed by criminals in early November and we had then establish another nursery of 3500 plants. What caused the delay in sending this report. We plan to build a new nursery of 10,000 plants with local help.

b. Planting

Planting activities have just started in our three local groups. Local authorities have granted us land: 5 ha at Munene, 3 ha Mkwechi and 5 ha at Lweba. The number of trees planted will be known at the end of the project but it is higher than expected.

c. Agroforestry

In these vast spaces, will also plant cassava to promote agroforestry and to fight against climate change. We have already surfaced cassava plants. It should be when trees begin to sprout.

4. Fight against the non-viable fishing

a. Fishing nets

We have allowed our local groups appropriate fishing nets. The nature of these nets differs from one local group to another: Munene preferred gillnets while Mkwechi has set fishing lines and Lweba traditional gillnets. These nets are improvements in the living conditions of our three villages.

b. Fishing calendar

We are talking with local authorities, government departments concerned (Environment, Upper Lake Authority through its offices PRODAP) and Planning Authority to establish a fishing calendar for all villages lakeside.

5. Habitat restoration of species

The restoration of the lake ecosystem in the three local groups continue and uprooted reeds are replanted and others thrive.

Conclusion

Project activities are progressing well and we believe that with the 2nd report in May 2014 significant progress will be visible.

