

Project Update: August 2010

Below are the initially planned activities for the project and what has been implemented so far:

- One meeting with partners and stakeholders was held to assist in identifying the training needs for the community educators.
- One community meeting for 50 community representatives from two villages was held to identify the role of community in Indigenous knowledge. The community identified the following as their main roles:
 - Documentation of the indigenous knowledge.
 - Awareness creation on indigenous knowledge.
 - Promotion of indigenous knowledge.
 - Adding value to the indigenous knowledge.

One community educator's workshop for 20 community educators was held and the community educators trained on ecotourism practices and group management. The main highlights were:

- Ecotourism to succeed has to involve the local community.
- Group management assists in pulling resources together for development.
- Proposal writing.
- Conflict resolution.

Project evaluation was done assessing both the activities and financial reports and all indications show that the project is on the right track. This was done by project staff and key stakeholders in the project site.

X-signifies yet to be implemented

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Project Outcomes

The awareness created by both the trained community members and the community trainers has made the Ministry of Tourism in the region to put up a sign post to advertise the area as a tourist attraction along the main Kapsabet - Eldoret highway that transverse the swamp

Most community members have changed their attitude and view the swamp as a very important resource to them. Anyone visiting the swamp for whatever reason has to report to the management committee that the project assisted in developing. The trained youth are acting as scouts for the swamp.

One of the youth and secretary of the management committee has developed interest in acquiring knowledge in tourism management and has been assisted by Statunga Ecotours to identify a Tourism Training College in Nairobi. She is joining in January 2011. This is a positive impact to the community because she was one of the few people who did not understand what the project was coming to do when we started.

Kenya Wildlife Service is developing a National Conservation Strategy for the Sitatunga in Kenya and will involve the Statunga Eco tours and Kingwal swamp community. There are suggestions to have one member from the two above as committee members.

Kenya wildlife service is planning exchange visits for the Kingwal community to sites where communities have embraced ecotourism projects. This is a positive step in supporting initiatives of the project at Kingwal swamp.

The stakeholders are working towards a Management Plan for Kingwal Swamp.