

## **Project Update: December 2010**

One partnership meeting with partners and stakeholders was held to plan the Eco – cultural fair. The stakeholders were amazed by the traditional and indigenous items the local community had. An endless list of items was made; many of the things listed were thought not to be available within the community.

Project monitoring and evaluation was done and key outcome is as follows:

- The project activities have been held as scheduled.
- The community is actively marketing the wetland as a tourist attraction.
- Strategist partnerships have been developed.
- There is need to replicate the success stories from the wetland segment to other parts of the wetland.

The ecofair done in December 2010 was a successful event. The planning committee and the local community agreed that the event would be marked annually to market their culture and promote domestic tourism in the region and improve the community livelihood. Many lessons were learnt from the cultural fair that will be improved in future to attract even international tourist. Many community members who brought many items for exhibition attended it.

## **Project Key Outcomes**

Mrs Mary Oruko, a master's student on project management at the University of Nairobi has approached the project asking to be allowed to do a project monitoring as part of her master's thesis. We granted her the permission and we are looking forward to getting a feedback from an external monitoring and evaluation.

The project has created a good understanding between the local communities other stakeholders and government. During the ecofair, a female community member told the government representative and other stakeholders that they thought the project would take their land adjacent to the wetland to use in protecting the sitatunga antelope. Now they have known the truth are supporting the project activities. The government and other stakeholders used the occasion to pass important messages and it provided a question and answer forum for the community to ask any clarification on any issues.

During the ecofair, community members and stakeholders agreed to establish a community resource center near the wetland to be used in keeping the exhibition items and to attract tourist in the region. Land will be availed by the community and stakeholders seek funding to build it. The resource center will also be used to educate the young community members so that they appreciate their indigenous knowledge for posterity.

Kenya Wildlife Services and the Kapsabet Municipal Council jointly gave a grader to work on the roads leading into the wetland. This was to improve the accessibility to the wetland for tourists.