

Project Update: June 2010

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

- Six meetings with partners and stakeholders to aid in the planning for the project. So far, three of these meetings have been held with representation from the central government (the district office, the local government (Kapsabet county and town councils), the local administration (the chief and his assistants) and the community. The Kenya Wildlife Service was instrumental in organizing these meetings. Also involved was the Baraton University in providing expertise during workshops facilitation.
- Four community workshops for 20 community representatives to aid in gathering indigenous information which is to be used in promoting community based biodiversity conservation in the area. Two of these have already been held with the involvement of representatives from both Tulon and Ngechek locations. Sixty-four community members participated in these workshops which have aided in gathering and documenting indigenous information on natural resources in the area.
- Of the two planned training events for 20 community educators, one Training of Trainers has been held with 23 community representatives trained on various environmental education skills.

The table below illustrates implemented activities with respect to the initial project plan:

Y-signifies already implemented

X-signifies yet to be implemented

[illegible]

Outcomes

- i. Through the partnership, stakeholders and planning meetings, we have managed to create new partnerships for the conservation of Kingwal swamp. The local administration and village elders are already proactively getting involved in creating awareness on importance of sustainable utilization of Kingwal swamp resources. The local people have also started gathering more knowledge on indigenous ways of environmental and nature conservation. Bonding between the community in Tulon and Ngechek communities which were initially rivals for Kingwal swamp resources is becoming effective. Partnership as opposed to rivalry between the local government representatives and the community is taking root.
- ii. An environmental education unit for Kingwal swamp has been established in the name of Kingwal swamp Biodiversity conservation group. The group has already set up a leadership structure drawn from both represented locations of Tulon and Ngechek parts of the swamp. Members of the leadership committee include:
 - Alfred Lagat - Chairman;
 - Eusila Jeptoo – Secretary;
 - Hillary Simatei - Treasurer;
 - Lazarus Birgen – Coordinator.
- iii. Two environmental education units have been established through the Training of Trainers’ workshop. These media will be facilitated through the 20 trained community representatives and the local administration.
- iv. More than the initially intended number of community participants are already involved in contributing to the development of a community education manual. We had planned for 50 community participants but 64 were willing to be involved which is a good thing.

Future plans

- i. From the gathered information on indigenous conservation, we intend to work further with community leaders and other experts to help in documenting the information so that it can be published and used for environmental education around Kingwal swamp. This will be ensured through holding more stakeholder planning meetings with various partners.

- ii. The two remaining community workshops will be used to help in assimilating the established environmental educators into their main task of educating the entire community on importance of Kingwal swamp conservation.
- iii. We also plan in the next 2 weeks to involve the community and the project planning staff in monitoring the project progress so far. This will be done after this preliminary reporting.

Conclusion

From the project staff meetings that have been held, it has amicably been agreed that the project is on the right track despite having had a difficult start due to different time schedules between Statunga Ecotours project management staff and other supporting partners. This was however rectified by redesigning the project work plan jointly with the stakeholders and other partners.