

Project Update: Decemeber 2018

August 2018:

Activity 1: Engaging community leaders through local government leadership

Activity 2: Establishing co management

The team mobilised local leaders from the four villages of Bugeye, Kitokolo, Kiguli, Bukungo in Bukunge Parish, Nkozi, Mpingi district. The team leader introduced the project to the local leaders, and highlighted the project objectives and how we can work together.



Chairperson Kitokolo Local Council one giving his remarks

The area leadership is gender sensitive, and both men and women were represented in the engagement see below the Chairperson Local Council 1 making her remarks during the meeting. The chairperson explained to the meeting that the challenge was from individual's owning land titles within the wetland boundaries. She however gave an insightful proposal that there was need to engage private land owners and sensitise them independently on wetland catchment management.



Chairperson Local Council 1 Kitokolo Parish making her remarks.

The project team was keenly interested in understanding the current gaps that have resulted into degrading the river catchments. This was following the earlier identified hotspots within the overlapping habitats in the area. The local leaders were able to share some of the key drivers of the current cause of hotspots within the overlapping habitats in River Katonga catchments and among them included:

1. The poor practices on private land within the wetland catchments. How can we protect the wetland in the private land ownership?
2. Lack of unresolved or agreed buffer between the wetland and wetland.
3. Plantation of exotic species within the River Katonga catchment.
4. Shrinking space for grazing cattle that leads to burning of the wetland by cattle owners.

The project team raised awareness to the local leaders through training them on, co-management or collaborating management, the impact of planting eucalyptus, pine and palm trees, within the buffer, and the resource conflict management. The local leaders were later taken through the roles, responsibilities, and rights they can do alongside with the district natural resource officers in co-managing the River Katonga catchment. A gender sensitive co-management committee was formed from four local communities from Bugeye, Kitokolo, Bukungo, and Kiguli villages to oversee and manage the conflicting mandate and enhance the best management practice of biodiversity in overlapping habitats in River Katonga catchment.

Our next engagement will address the type of the native trees specials that can be planted near the wetland by private land owners, and we shall also have a dialogue to redress the grievances and how to collaborate landowners.