

Project Update: December 2020

Summary of activities:

- Visits and reconnaissance.
- Establishing contacts.
- Project introduction to sites the community.
- Community engagement and formation of Community Environmental Committee (CEC in Kitokolo village).

The project implementation began in mid-November 2020 with an internal meeting to streamline the roles and responsibilities of each staff on the project. This was followed by the field visits and reconnaissance survey of the overlapping habitats for boosting in the River Katonga catchment, and establishment of the local contacts in the project area on 30th November 2020. A community engagement exercise was organised in Kitokolo village on 20th December 2020 to inform communities of the importance of conserving the wetland habitat which forms a bigger part of River Katonga catchment that has been degraded by the communities themselves.

Project team on border between Kitokolo and Golo communities:

- Visits and reconnaissance.
- Establishing contacts.
- Project introduction to sites the community.

Kitokolo community: 36M 392314.14ME, 9991098.80 mS

- Field visit and reconnaissance survey of affected habitats.
- Cultivation within the river catchment buffer.
- Establishing contacts.

Golo village: 391042.93 m E, 9992249.25 mS

- Field visit to private natural forest within the buffer and establishing the ecosystem services it offers for demonstration use and best practices.

Golo community: 394098.78 m E, 9991617.75 mS

- Degradation of the catchment habitat.
- Subsistence farming within the river catchment.



Project team in the field



Degraded river catchment for cultivation of maize



Protected river catchment



Encroached river catchment

Community engagement in Kitokolo; The boundary community in Kitokolo village was mobilised and engaged on River Katonga habitat management within the catchment. The team also noted from the field and through interaction with the communities that water levels had gone up in record time, extending to some residents and consuming some gardens within the encroached catchment.



Community engagement on the project

After the engagement, a community environmental committee (CEC) of six members was formed. The committee will be in charge of lobbying their colleagues to release part of their land for:

- habitat growth and management,
- river catchment protection,
- conservation of important fauna within the wetland.

The committee will be fully engaged in the subsequent activities and to be able to sustain the project results. The committee will also be assigned other roles to take up.



The team standing is the newly formed Community Environmental Committee in Kitokoro pausing for a picture with the Project Coordinator 4th from Right and Project Assistant 3rd from right.