

Project Update: September 2021

Since last reporting in June 2021, we have carried out the following activities:

- Monitoring the indigenous trees planted and wetland boundaries.
- Selecting and supporting wetland neighbours with livelihood projects.
- Meeting local leaders to give project updates and seek guidance.

Monitoring trees planted and wetland boundaries: We continued to monitor the indigenous trees that we planted on the wetland boundaries, and most of these are now established. During the exercise, we encouraged the wetland neighbours to continue weeding these trees such that they even grow faster. A few trees that had dried up were replaced during the exercise.

We noted that majority of the wetland neighbours had observed the boundaries and only carried out recommended activities in the wetland area such as domestic animal grazing, fish farming, beekeeping and sustainable harvesting of some of the wetland products such as papyrus. In areas where we found that wetland neighbours had not complied, we worked with local leaders to sensitise them. This monitoring activity will continue.



A project staff talking to a wetland neighbour during the monitoring exercise



Left: Project staff doing spot weeding of the trees. Right: Some of the areas where the wetland boundaries have not been observed.

Supporting wetland neighbours for the livelihood program

We selected 45 local community members and supported these with different sustainable livelihood projects. The key projects supported are animal rearing (goats, chicken and piggery), beekeeping, trade and craft making. All members supported chose to take these up on an individual basis. However, in each village we selected a committee, which will work with KAFRED staff and local leaders to monitor and ensure that that these projects are well implemented.



Left: Village committees discussing livelihood projects. Right: Chairperson KAFRED talking to some of the wetland neighbors about the sustainable livelihood projects.



Left: One of the wetland neighbours who was supported with a goat. Right: A wetland neighbour who was supported with beehives

Meeting local leaders

Irrespective of the education component of the project, there were some wetland neighbours who were misled that pillars were survey-mark stones aimed at evicting them from their land. This resulted into some pillars being destroyed. We therefore called local leaders and asked them to pass on the right message on what these pillars were for and this has since improved the situation.



KAFRED Program Manager talking to local leaders.