

## **Project Update: July 2010**

### **Proposed activities:**

1. Site clearing/ planning/ preparation
2. Project evaluation and reporting
3. Landscaping and tree planting
4. Gravity water construction

### **Implemented activities:**

**Site clearing/ planning/ preparation:** This has been successfully done. It involved planning of the roads and pathways, tree sites, location of the restaurant, crafts shop and accommodation place on the 2 – 3 acres of the entire project site leaving the rest of the land untouched.

**Project evaluation and reporting:** At the beginning, a baseline survey has been conducted to set the basis for monitoring and evaluation during and after the project. The reporting will be done and will be repeated every 3 months to monitor the progress and evaluate the successes and failures.

**Landscaping and tree planting:** This has started and is to continue up to the fourth month of the project. The tree locations have been drawn, the holes are being dug and the trees will be planted within the first 4 months of the project. Some indigenous trees have been left to grow in the site.

**Gravity water construction:** This calls for authorisation from the Kagando rural development project that constructed the water. When contacted, they referred us to the local government and the sub county has received the letter to authorize the offer of water in July 2010. The site will get the water within the first 4 months of the project.

**Community sensitization meeting:** In the first place a 1-day meeting was held with the community targeting the crafts weavers and dancers to work directly in the project. The meeting involved discussing with the park on the needs and potentials of working with the community to build on the conservation and development effort of the park.

**Guides training:** For two identified people who trained with the other Albertine rift guides for 5 days. Training will follow in August 2010. This is to ensure that they can be involved in the development of the site with key knowledge of community tourism. This also gave the local guides an opportunity to share with the already practicing guides in other communities.

**Community tourism awareness meeting:** A 2-day community tourism awareness workshop has been called for and conducted. This is targeting the target groups and the entire local community members. It has shown the community their role and how they can benefit from community tourism sustainably. After this workshop, we expect full community involvement.

### **Activities next quarter:**

1. Project evaluation and reporting to continue at the end of the quarter.

2. Landscaping and tree planting to continue.
3. Gravity water construction to continue.
4. Craft shop construction to start.

**Observations to date:**

1. The park is having interest in the project.
2. Increased knowledge of the likely tourism activities within the community.
3. Increased /pledged cooperation with UCOTA.
4. Existence of a big gap between the park and the community that must be shortened.
5. Local government support to the community tourism project.
6. The available gravity water is insufficient so will need proper use economically community sensitization should be given the highest priority during and after the project.