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Project Title:

Enabling Rural Riparian Communities to Conserve and Benefit from Wetlands in the Winam Gulf, Lake Victoria, Kenya

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1.0 Introduction

The Winam Gulf Wetlands Sustainability project covers a jurisdiction of four of wetlands which are;Kusa, Yala, Koguta and Dunga wetlands. All these wetlands are under multiple sources of threats of degradationranging from unsustainable harvesting of papyrus reeds, invasive hippo grass and hyacinth, clearing of Ambatch tree and the conversion of the wetlands into economic zones for a myriad of anthropogenic activities like agriculture, settlement and grazing.

This project has the goal to ensure the long term integrity and health of all the four wetlands in order for them to continue providing their valuable ecosystem services. Additionally, improvement and greening of livelihood conditions of the rural communities is one of the integralmeasuresbeing taken by the project team. This will enable reductionof human pressure on the wetlands and its resources.

The project team has so far kick-started all the strategies that were designed to achieve the project objectives. Under the said strategies, the activities that are being undertaken by the project team include, development of Community Wetlands Conservation Action Plans with the Village Environment Committees (VECs), conducting an entrepreneurship training on nature based enterprises, enabling of green technologies in the four wetlands, establishment of a network of the communities and self-help groups and Lake Victoria Wetlands Forum (LVWEF), establishment of model farmers and conservation scheme agreements, conducting wetland demarcation and zonation in the wetlands, initiating an adopt a wetland scheme for restoration of the wetlands and facilitation of community monitoring and enforcement initiatives.

These activities are all still ongoing, whereas the conduction and documentation of a baseline survey of all the four wetlands has been completed and the statuses of the wetlands have been established. The project team implements and carries out the activities with the sole aim of ensuring the conservation of all the four wetlands and long-term sustainability of all the strategies implemented.

2.0 Participatory Wetlands Assessment

2.1 Wetlands Status Report

This strategy involved the study of the wetland in terms of its characteristics and the socio economic activities that lead to its degradation. This was conducted successfully with the project team and the members of the respective wetland communities.

The assessment of the wetland was followed up by a written baseline survey of the wetland and its resources, this was augmented with GIS mapping which was professionally done and the land use trend in wetland change over the years was clearly developed descriptively and a satellite map indicating the status of the wetland as it is now and the change it has undergone over the years were also drawn up.

The documentation of the results of the participatory wetlands assessment was carried out so that the project team could be able to well analyze the status of the wetland, have a clear indication of how the wetland has been changing over the years and the reasons for that change. This was done so as to be able to come up with appropriate ways of implementing the strategies that have been put in place and to ensure their sustainability.

	Area in Hectares			
Land Use	Dunga	Kusa	Koguta	Yala
Indigenous forests	3.46		30	4
Wetland farming	636	828	203	4868
Open grassland	65	45	20	460
Open woodland	148	157	10	730
Closed woodland		7		802
Urban areas	23			
Water body	148	502	71	1566
Wetland	925	1210	325	9262

Table 1: Land Use Cover of the Wetlands as at 2015

The table (1) above shows the information obtained through the GIS mapping, of all land uses of the wetlands and the sizes that they cover. This is open to thorough ground truthing. Anthropogenic activities taking place in the wetland apart from wetland farming, have been contributing to the degradation of the wetland and the continued change in their sizes and statuses. These activities are also summarized in the table below.

This information (table 2) was obtained from a social survey that was conducted as part of the baseline survey.

Wetland Land use	Dunga	Koguta	Kusa	Yala
Overgrazed	9%	20%	10%	10%
Burnt vegetation	12%	10%	8%	8%
Papyrus harvesting	27%	25%	10%	15%
Wetland farming	40%	20%	19%	34%
Settlement	10%	15%	-	10%
Intact area	2%	10%	53%	23%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 2: Activities in the wetland and the proportion of wetland area each covers

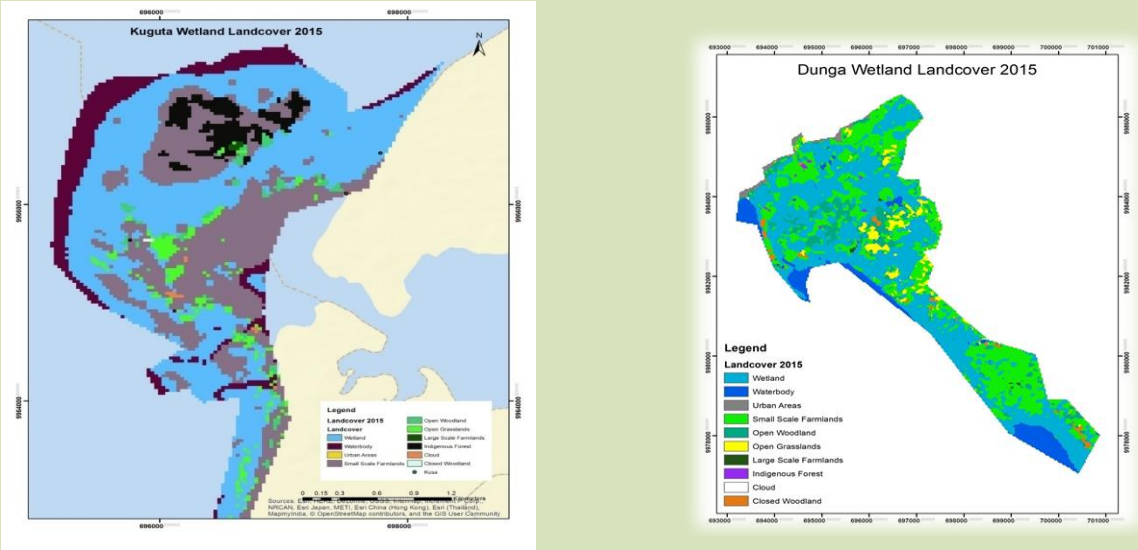


Figure 1: Maps of Koguta and Dunga Land Cover 2015 respectively

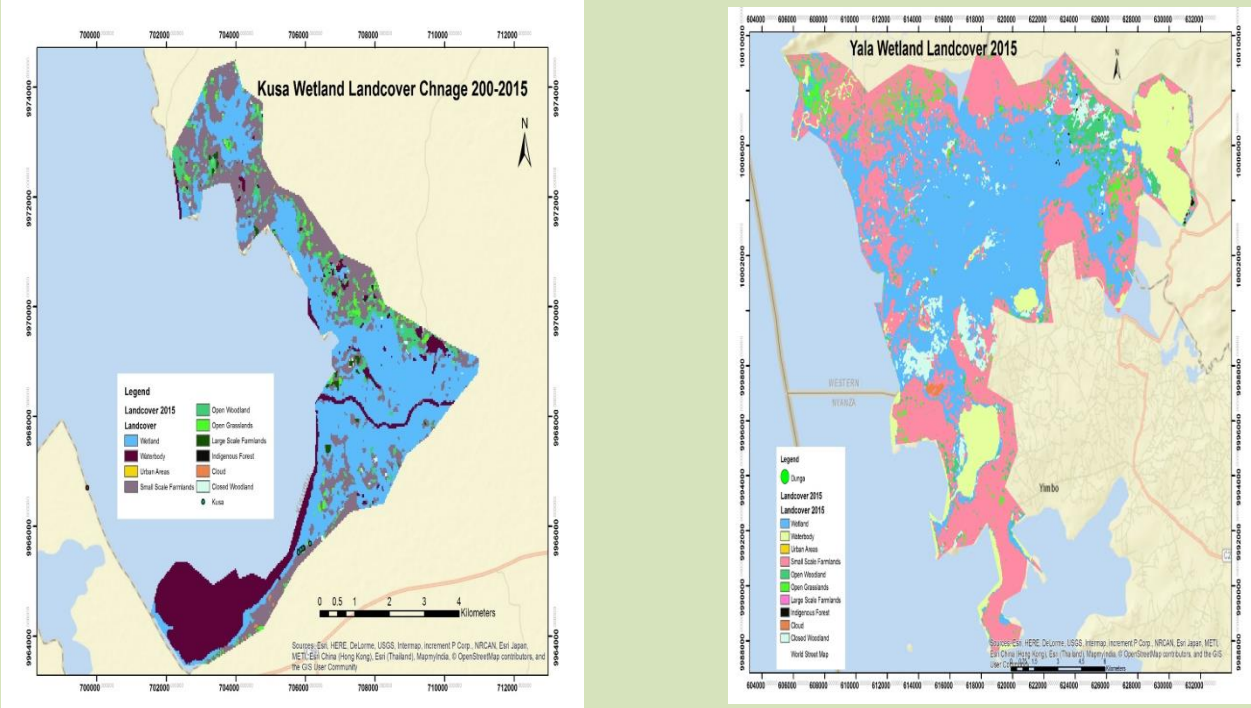


Figure 2: Maps of Kusa and Yala Land Cover 2015 Respectively

This (figures 1 and 2) was also done to establish a basis within which the continued status of the project and its effectiveness can be monitored and evaluated in the subsequent years after the official completion of the project.

2.2 Activities of the Village Environment Committee

All the members of VEC were called into a meeting in their respective villages; there were a total of 20 members in each village who represented all the socio economic groups in the respective wetland areas. They started by identifying the major reasons why their wetlands are important to them and what makes them special, good places for tourists to visit and a source of livelihood for the community members.

They established that the wetlands are important places for tourism purposes, aesthetic value and the ecosystem services that they provide. They also acknowledged that the wetlands face numerous threats and a majority of them are brought about by human activities. They include:

1. Encroachment into riparian lands
2. Burning of papyrus and cutting of Ambatch trees
3. Water pollution
4. Burning/cutting of vegetation
5. Excessive floods
6. Drought
7. Invasive plant species
8. Overgrazing

Therefore, the established and functional Village Environment Committees of each wetland area, saw need for an community wetland conservation action plan that will enable the committee to operate in a systematic and organized manner, to help conserve their wetlands. The Committees therefore, sat down with some members of the project team and community members to develop the respective action plans.

They then came up with an action plan that addressed all the major threats facing their wetlands, the action plan focused on the activities to be carried out to deal with specific threats, the resources that will be required, the bodies responsible for implementation, in which case the community represented by VECs was the dominant body but getting support from other key stakeholders, the duration in which these activities will be carried out and where the said activities will be carried out.

Restoring degraded wetland areas by planting wetland vegetation, creation of awareness and capacity building on sanitation and conservation measures, construction of ecological sanitation toilets and establishing a paddock system for papyrus harvesters were some of the actions that were identified by the committees in the wetland areas.

All the action plans were then put up in public halls in all the wetlands where the community members can have access to them and can see them constantly as a reminder of what they are supposed to do to restore, conserve and protect the integrity and health of their wetlands.

Photo 1: Community Action Plan Presented to a Local Leader at Koguta

The community members therefore have a basis to start from when conserving their wetlands, it helps them have a clear road map of what they need to do, how they will do the same, when they will do them and a means of acquiring or mobilizing the resources that they need to conduct their activities. The Village Environmental Committees, as the bodies responsible for grass root governance of the environment in all the four wetlands, were instituted as the enforcing bodies.

3.0 Community Education

Communication is one of the key elements in achieving the project's objectives. The communities we are working with and the general public needs to be made aware of the implementation strategies and conservation measures that we are taking and above all inform and educate for desired attitudinal and behavioural change towards wetlands conservation.

We have embarked on developing scripts for the radio spots, puppetry and drama on wetlands conservation; we are also in the process of selecting appropriate genres and rapporteurs for the same. Baseline survey and participatory interactions with the locals has informed our messages.

Effective Information, Education and Communication materials for the project have been developed, for instance, the project's roll up and flat banners that are designed to communicate to the communities at large what the project is all about.

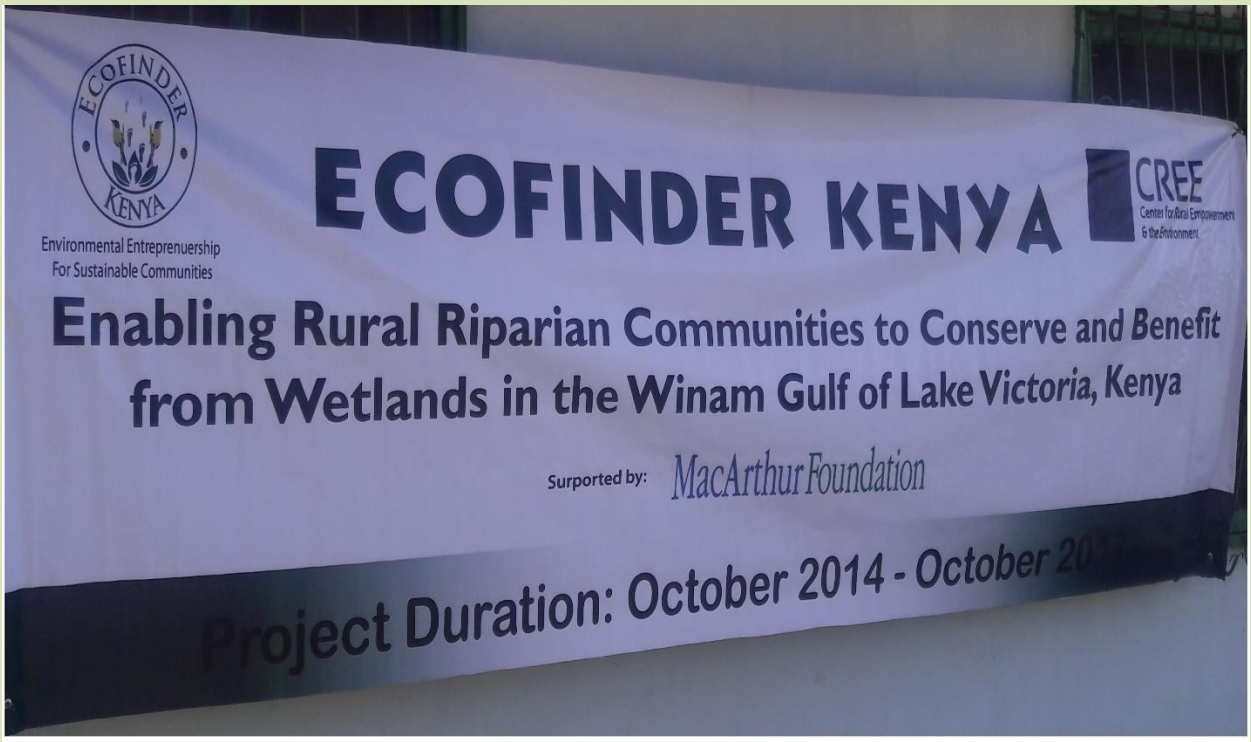
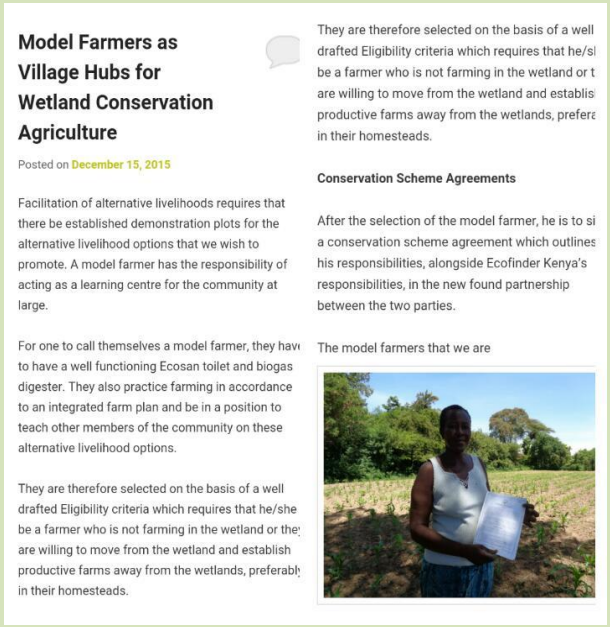


Photo 2: Winam Gulf Wetlands Project's Flat Banner

Photo 3: Winam Gulf Wetlands Project's Roll up Banner

There are also online platforms on the projects that are running and these are a project fact sheet, blog and facebook posts on the Ecofinder website and facebook page respectively. These online platforms are meant to inform the public of the efforts and activities that are being done to ensure the conservation of the four wetlands, by the project team. The following are the links to our online platforms.

Photo 4: Winam Gulf Wetlands Project's Blog Posts



Model Farmers as Village Hubs for Wetland Conservation Agriculture

Posted on December 15, 2015

Facilitation of alternative livelihoods requires that there be established demonstration plots for the alternative livelihood options that we wish to promote. A model farmer has the responsibility of acting as a learning centre for the community at large.

For one to call themselves a model farmer, they have to have a well functioning Ecosan toilet and biogas digester. They also practice farming in accordance to an integrated farm plan and be in a position to teach other members of the community on these alternative livelihood options.

They are therefore selected on the basis of a well drafted Eligibility criteria which requires that he/she be a farmer who is not farming in the wetland or they are willing to move from the wetland and establish productive farms away from the wetlands, preferably in their homesteads.

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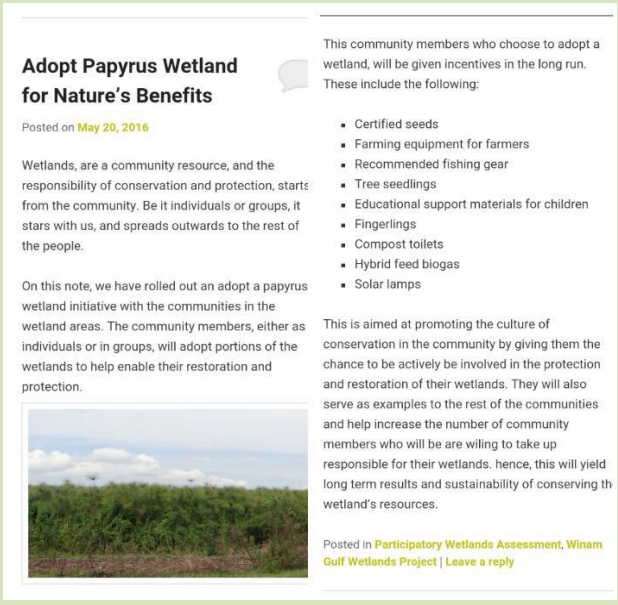
Conservation Scheme Agreements

After the selection of the model farmer, he is to si a conservation scheme agreement which outlines his responsibilities, alongside Ecofinder Kenya's responsibilities, in the new found partnership between the two parties.

The model farmers that we are



Adopt Papyrus Wetland for Nature's Benefits

Posted on May 20, 2016

Wetlands, are a community resource, and the responsibility of conservation and protection, starts from the community. Be it individuals or groups, it stars with us, and spreads outwards to the rest of the people.

On this note, we have rolled out an adopt a papyrus wetland initiative with the communities in the wetland areas. The community members, either as individuals or in groups, will adopt portions of the wetlands to help enable their restoration and protection.

This community members who choose to adopt a wetland, will be given incentives in the long run. These include the following:

- Certified seeds
- Farming equipment for farmers
- Recommended fishing gear
- Tree seedlings
- Educational support materials for children
- Fingerlings
- Compost toilets
- Hybrid feed biogas
- Solar lamps

This is aimed at promoting the culture of conservation in the community by giving them the chance to be actively be involved in the protection and restoration of their wetlands. They will also serve as examples to the rest of the communities and help increase the number of community members who will be are wiling to take up responsible for their wetlands. hence, this will yield long term results and sustainability of conserving th wetland's resources.

Posted in Participatory Wetlands Assessment, Winam Gulf Wetlands Project | Leave a reply

Farms' Afforestation for Environmental Conservation

Posted on May 4, 2016

Establishment of model farmers is based on the premise of conservation. The model farmer's are expected to promote wetland conservation through reducing pressure on the wetland caused by encroachment for resources and other economic activities like farming.

To add to this, the model farmers are also supposed to show solidarity for conservation through ensuring that 10% of their homesteads are covered with trees.

In support of this, we are distributing

tree seedlings to all the model farmers, in quantity that is equivalent to 10% of their f are also jointly engaging in tree planting w respective model farmers and their entire households, and encouraging everyone to protection and nurturing of the trees in the homesteads.

Posted in Facilitation of Alternative Livelihoo Gulf Wetlands Project | Leave a reply

Photo 5: Winam Gulf Wetlands Project's Blog Posts

- **Facebook:** Ecofinder Kenya
- **Blog**: Read Our Blog
- **Twitter:**Ecofinder Kenya

They are also aimed at ensuring the public understands the importance of conserving our wetlands, the efforts being made to do the same and to give their thoughts and support on the strategies and activities being undertaken by the project team.

4.0 Facilitation of Alternative Livelihoods

4.1 Training Needs Assessment

In order for the project team to bring lessons on entrepreneurship to the communities living in the wetland areas, we conducted an assessment of the communities' level of entrepreneurship understanding in terms of both knowledge and practice.

This was aimed at ensuring that the project team had a clear indication of the status of entrepreneurship practice in all the four wetland communities, which was to help in identifying the gaps that needed to be filled for the same.

An assessment form was developed by the project team that was to be completed by the community members; it covered the following key areas:

- The level of understanding of entrepreneurship,
- The kinds of nature bases enterprises are being undertake,
- Challenges faced by both entrepreneurs and would be entrepreneurs
- Training methods best preferred by the community members.
- Practical measures being undertaken to green the value chains

The training needs assessment which was conducted in all the four wetlands revealed that most of the people in the community are self-employed and they mostly engage in entrepreneurial ventures that tap into the wetlands for resources. These economic activities include:

- Fishing
- Fish mongering
- Mat knitting
- Tour guiding
- Basket weaving
- Agriculture
- Mat weaving
- Trading
- Papyrus harvesting
- Brick Making
- Sand harvesting

An assessment report was developed by the project team and from that, it was concluded that the people need extensive training in different areas of entrepreneurship in order for them to grow their businesses and have sustainable livelihoods that can help improve their economic status and harvest sustainably from the wetlands thus, reducing pressure on the wetlands and as result, ensuring the conservation of the wetlands and their resources.

4.2 Entrepreneurship Training

In an attempt to help in the development of alternative livelihoods, through assisting local residents to begin exploiting the wetlands in sustainable ways, lessons of entrepreneurship were brought to the community members by the project team.

Following this, an entrepreneurship training curriculum was developed with the aim of ensuring the would be entrepreneurs from the lake side receive information and technical support in the areas of business development, resource mobilization, institutional management and marketing sustainable products and services to local and outside tourists and consumers.

For the project team to be able to reach a wide range of people there was an assessment of the self-help groups that are in the wetland areas and the activities that they are engaged in, in their respective groups. The criterion of selection of the groups was majorly based on the groups being engaged in Village/group savings and loaning. After identifying the groups, representatives were then selected from each group to attend the training then they would be in a position to pass the knowledge to the rest of the group members.

The number of people who participated in the entrepreneurship trainings in all the four wetlands was as follows (table 3):

Wetland	Males	Females	Total
Dunga	13	9	22
Kusa	10	11	21
Koguta	15	11	26
Yala	15	15	30
Total	53	46	99

Table 3: No. of Participants in the Entrepreneurship Training

The curriculum for the training was developed and designed to cover all the aforementioned concepts and areas of interest and it also highlighted the learning and teaching objectives for each section of the training. The following topics were covered during the training:

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION	OBJECTIVES
Opportunity identification and risk analysis	Learning how to best identify profitable and suitable business opportunities relating to nature based enterprises Exploring the kind of risks relating to nature based enterprises and identification of the ones worth taking for a particular venture	To help the trainees be able to identify good business opportunities in their locality using nature based resources at their disposal To help the trainees learn the kind of risks that are worth taking for their businesses and start-ups
Marketing sustainable products and service to local and outside tourists and consumers	Marketing the nature based businesses extensively in order to ensure maximization of sales and extensive delivery of services	To help trainees know how to market their goods and services to relevant market segments and to identify the right market for a specific nature based enterprise
Needs provision and customer relations	Basic lesson on customer care and how to best relate with customers and ensure you retain them and attract new ones as well	To help the trainees learn the basics of customer relations and needs provision in nature based enterprises
Financial management	How to set aside profits that can be used in growing the business, without majorly affecting all other profit uses and expenses General management of business funds	To help the trainees learn how they can calculate the profits they can plough back and use to grow their business To help trainees learn how to manage their funds to ensure continued sustainability and growth of their businesses.
Resource mobilization from devolved funds	Description of the different types of resources that one needs for a nature based business which also ensures sustainable use of the material resources and how to best source for them	To help the trainees learn the best ways to source for resources and how to ensure that they use the material resources wisely without over exploiting them
Sustainability concepts	Establishment of business in nature based enterprises, marketing of sustainable products and services and pursuance of livelihood opportunities from the wetland resources which also contribute to wetland conservation and sustainable use of wetland resources following the concepts of Carrying capacity Impact prevention and Sustainable extraction rates	To help the trainees learn and understand the sustainable concepts in the formation and running of nature based enterprises
Micro franchising	Learning how franchising works and the importance of franchising in nature based enterprises	To help the trainees learn the importance of franchising in nature based enterprises

Table 4: Entrepreneurship Training Content

The training was carried out over a period of three days for seven hours each day in each wetland. Two topics were being facilitated per day and then there was a group discussion and

presentations from the participant's session in the afternoon. This was meant to gauge the participants' understanding of what has learnt.

The participants were then introduced to Ecofinder Kenya's micro franchise enterprises where they were to conduct feasibility studies using the entrepreneurial tools that they had learnt and come up with a business plan complete with marketing strategies and present them to the project team for further assistance. They managed to do this and they are currently in the process of setting up groups to begin arrangements for their enterprises.

Photo 6: Trainees in a Group Discussion Session

4.3 Establishment of Model Farmers

With help from the VEC officials and our own canvassing of the wetland communities, a number of additional model farmers were selected. Apart from this, the process also involved the screening of potential model farmers using a well drafted selection criterion that was drawn up by the project team.

Upon communication with the specific model farmers and reaching a verbal agreement, each of the already established model farmers was then presented with a conservation scheme agreement that gave the detailed roles, responsibilities and expectations of both parties involved. Each of them was taken through it and they all signed it, showing their commitment and willingness to adhere to the model farmer guidelines as stipulated.

Photo 7: Model farmer in her Farm with a Signed Conservation Scheme Agreement

A total of ten model farmers have so far been identified and established, 2 in Dunga wetland, 3 in Koguta wetland, and 3 in Kusa wetland and 2 in Yala wetland. The establishment of these model farmers involves constructions of a hybrid feed biogas digester with an Ecosan toilet for the feeding from the human excreta, development of the farmer's farm as per an integrated farm plan that is drawn up in a participatory manner with the farmer and the project team and

afforestationof the model farmer's homestead and farm to ensure that they have at least 10% tree cover.

Photo 8: Dunga Model Farmer's Integrated Farm Plan for Hippo Control

After all the above has been put in place and all the systems are working concurrently, the model farmer is expected act as a learning centre or act as a village hub for the rest of the community members. Our expectation is that the people coming to see the farms and learning how the system works will adopt it in their own homesteads and this will help reduce pressure on the wetlands thereby reducing encroachment and hence human wildlife conflicts.

Some of the model farmers have already started hosting visitors and taking them through the system and its benefits and importance. We are currently in the process of devising methods of bringing the lessons of the adoptions of these systems to the larger communities, through the help of the model farmer's as the village hubs.

4.4 Enabling Green Technologies

In an effort to bring alternative livelihood sources for the wetland communities, we distributed solar lamps and cook stoves to the willing locals who started an enterprise with them. In the case of the solar lamps, they are rented out on pay to own model to the community members at prices which are lower than what they use every day for kerosene fuel. This cost effective nature of the solar lamps make most of the community members open to adopting it as a lighting system in their homes. This has led to reduced use of kerosene fuel and increased disposable income in the homestead.

The same is the case for improved cook stoves, which has made the homesteads that are adopting them significantly reduce the use of wood fuels. The hybrid feed biogas digesters have been constructed for 10 farmers, on a cost sharing basis, who were willing to adopt the system. Two different technologies were used for this; one uses bricks to build the digesters and the other one uses heavy plastic to build the digesters.

Photo 9: Materials and Excavation for a Simgas Biogas Digester

The adoption of these systems by the community members will help reduce pressure on the wetlands for wood fuel, harvesting too much papyrus reeds and other vegetation types and clearing of the wetlands for agriculture. This is because the notion of the wetlands being more productive will be written off by the use compost manure from the Ecosan toilets and slurry from the biogas digesters, in the farms that are away from the wetlands.

The following are the numbers that have so far been constructed and/distributed in all the four wetlands:

Wetland	Hybrid feed Biogas	Ecosan toilets	Solar lamps	Improved cook stoves
Dunga	2	6	50	50
Kusa	3	3	100	100
Koguta	3	3	100	100
Yala	2	6	50	50

Table 5: Number of Green Technologies Distributed

5.0 Wetlands Restoration and Protection

5.1 Wetlands Demarcation and Zonation

Before the commencement of restoration, through both active and passive regeneration, the project team has conducted wetland demarcation and zonation in all the four wetlands. This exercise was done in a participatory manner and it involved community members walking all-round the wetlands on the land ward side and taking boat rides for the lake ward side.

Photo 10: A team Conducting Wetland Demarcation in Yala Swamp

Mapping of the wetlands was done and it was demarcated on the basis of all the economic and social activities that take place in the wetlands and where they are carried out. After the demarcation there was a wetland uses zonation that was carried out and this resulted into the wetlands being categorized into three zones, the economic zone, buffer zone and the conservation zone.

The development of these maps for all the wetlands, including mapping with GPS was aimed at identifying the areas that have been completely degraded and that will be suitable for restoration by the project team and the respective communities at large.

Photo 11: Dunga Wetland Demarcation Map

5.2 Adopt a Wetland for Protection and Restoration

In all the wetlands, areas for restoration were identified, the recommended vegetation for planting and the incentives that will be given for the community members who will choose to adopt a portion of the wetlands for conservation. The table below gives a summary of this.

Wetland	Restoration area (size)	Recommended propagules	Proposed Incentives
Kusa	2km stretch	Ambatch trees, Typha grass, hippo grass, papyrus reeds and bamboo trees	Recommended seeds Fishing gear Farming tools Tree seedlings Solar lamps Hybrid feed biogas
Koguta	2km stretch	Ambatch trees Bamboo trees Papyrus reeds	Seedlings Fishing gear for fishermen Farming tools for farmers Recommended seeds for farmers Solar lamps Hybrid feed biogas digesters
Yala	5Km stretch	Ambatch trees Bamboo trees Papyrus reeds	Educational support materials for children Fingerlings Proper Fishing gear Farming equipment for farmers Recommended crops for farmers Solar lamps Hybrid feed biogas digesters
Dunga	2Km	Ambatch trees Papyrus reeds	Fishing gear Ecotourism promotion materials Solar lamps Hybrid feed biogas digesters

Table 6: Recommendations for Wetland Restoration

5.3 Development of Wetland Wise Use Bylaws

The community members in the wetland areas, with the help of the project team, developed a set of wetland use bylaws. These bylaws are aimed at helping in the protection of the wetland during the restoration period and to ensure the continued sustainability of the wetland past restoration.

The bylaws constituted of rules and regulations covering all the possible socio economic activities that are engaged in and threats facing the wetlands. With the VEC as the implementing body, a set of operating principles have also been stipulated for them, and the modes of adjudication have been stated clearly in the bylaws.

The content of the bylaws, through the VEC and associated wetland Keepers have been shared and ratified by all the community members so all of them are aware of their content and the repercussion of any actions that contribute to the degradation of the wetlands.

Photo 12: Community Members Developing Bylaws

5.4 Community Monitoring and Enforcement

The wetland restoration and protection strategy is designed to be community based. The community members living, working or operating in proximity to or within the wetland areas will be at the fore front, in ensuring that their respective wetlands are well conserved.

The VEC constitutes of representatives from all the working groups in the wetland areas. They are therefore the body that is in charge of environmental leadership in the respective wetland areas.

The community members therefore, are in charge of monitoring and enforcement. At the lowest level, we have wetland Keepers. The wetland Keepers are a group of willing and able conservation conscious community members who are distributed all over the wetlands.

Their main aim is to look out for the people who are going against the bylaws and are committing offences that are contributing to threats in the wetlands. For instance, if there are fishermen who are using un-recommended fishing gear while fishing or wetland farmers starting wetland fires or locals clearing Ambatch tree or farming in the conservation area. A wetland Keeper in the fishing group identifies the person and reports them to the satellite village hub.

The satellite village hub is the next level of enforcement in the wetland areas. This is a group that independently constitutes of organizations and groups which already work towards conservation in the wetlands. These organizations include the Beach Management Units (BMU's), Water Resource Users Association (WRUA's) and Site Organization groups.

The satellite village hub then forwards the case to a monitoring and surveillance team that is a subset of the Village Environment Committee. The team will then be in charge of gathering information on the case, and presenting it to the rest of the VEC members who will be in charge of enforcement, as stipulated in the respective sections of the bylaws.

We have so far already put in place wetland Keepers in the areas that cover the acreages that have been mentioned above which have been earmarked for restoration through the adopt a wetland scheme. With the use of the bylaws that are already in place, this process has already kicked off.

6.0 Enhancement of Stakeholder Participation

6.1 Network of all Wetlands Self-Help and Working Groups

In all the wetland communities in the four wetlands, there are a myriad of self-help groups and working groups. All these groups exist for the sole purpose of trying to better the livelihoods of its members. They do this through conducting a number of economic activities among them enterprises like papyrus weaving, tour guiding, solar enterprises, hat making, fish mongering, trading in assorted commodities, Village Savings and Loaning and table banking.

For improvement of livelihoods of rural communities is the avenue which will help in reducing pressure in the wetlands, the project team has established a network which brings all these groups together.

Photo 13: Representatives of Different Self-help Groups

This was done before the commencement of the entrepreneurship training, where all these groups were represented by up to three group members in workshops that were aimed to educate all of them on the stake that they hold in the conservation of their wetlands through the impoverishment of their livelihoods.

They were then trained in the workshops on how they could all come together and establish successful nature based enterprises, either independently or as micro franchises. These enterprises would empower them economically and also promote the protection, restoration and conservation of their respective wetland resources.

6.2 The Lake Victoria Wetlands Forum (LVWEF)

This is a network of organizations that have work jurisdiction along the Lake Victoria Basin. The Forum is a platform that brings all these organizations together, with a mission to network Lake Victoria wetlands stakeholders for harmonious endeavors towards its integrity and prosperity of wetland communities' livelihoods.

The LVWEF has been established so that it can bring a multi-disciplinary team of numerous stakeholders together to try and work together towards managing these issues. They have also already set up a governance structure, which will be approved and cleared in the next meeting, which will be held in July 2016. The forum is also in the process of finalizing an action plan, which will as well be reviewed in the next meeting. The following are the goals and objectives of the Lake Victoria Wetlands Forum:

a) To network forum member organizations and institutions working towards the conservation of Lake Victoria Wetlands to ensure efficient and effective impact.
b) To undertake resource mobilization for forum activities
c) To collect and disseminate information on wetlands wise use and management
d) To promote capacity building on various aspects of wetlands management
e) To promote wetlands wise-use grass-root initiatives model for wider replication
f) To promote establishment of wetland wise use and resource centers
g) To advocate and lobby for wetlands friendly policies and laws
h) To promote domestication and implementation of relevant global conventions on wetlands in Lake Victoria Region
i) To promote development of Wetland Management Plans
j) To provide advisory services on wetlands management and development issues
k) To promote best practice among members

See annex for a copy of the Lake Victoria Wetlands Forum Governance Structure.