

Danida – Government of Tanzania

**The Project for Sustainable and Integrated Management of the
Malagarasi-Muyovozi Ramsar Site
(SIMMORS)**

STATUS REPORT OF CEPA STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION



**SIMMORS - Urambo
March 2007**

Background

The Malagarasi-Muyovozi Ramsar Site is Tanzania's first Ramsar Site and at about 35,000 km² the third largest Ramsar Site world wide. It plays an important role in the Malagarasi River Basin which constitutes about one third of the catchment area for Lake Tanganyika.

With assistance from Danida, the GoT, through the Wildlife Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, implements the project for Sustainable and Integrated Management of the Malagarasi-Muyovozi Ramsar Site (SIMMORS) to consolidate and improve the conservation of the Malagarasi-Muyovozi ecosystem and to improve the livelihoods of communities living within and around the wetland areas. The project activities are concentrated in two districts in the core area of the Ramsar Site, which are Urambo and Kigoma districts including Ugalla and Moyowosi-Kigosi GRs.

SIMMORS project started implementing CEPA activities during its first phase of project activities in 2001 and the initiative is compliant to Output 4 outlined in the Project Document. A number of activities have been implemented as recommended in the Communication Education and Public awareness (CEPA) strategy to almost all parts of the Malagarasi-Muyovosi Ramsar Site.

Implementation

During the FY 2005/06 and 2006/07, SIMMORS as a project in collaboration with Urambo and Kigoma Districts in a core area of the Ramsar Site, has been at the forefront in implementing CEPA activities for communicating wetland issues to the public. The focus has been into the following activities/programmes:

1. CEPA strategy development

The SIMMORS project developed a CEPA strategy through local consultancy in collaboration with project secretariat and relevant stakeholders in the core area of the Ramsar Site. The objective of the strategy was to develop mechanism for the effective communication of issues relating to the sustainable use of wetland resources. The strategy developed was closely linked to planned project activities to promote the concept of involving local communities in the management of the Ramsar Site.

2. Preparation of side event for COP 9, Arusha, 2005

The SIMMORS project was involved in preparing side show events at the African Regional Conference in preparation for COP 9 of the Ramsar Convention in Arusha, April 3-9 2005. The aim of the so-called side event was to show-case wetland management efforts at the Malagarasi-Muyovozi Ramsar Site with a particular emphasis on demonstrating efforts to achieve active community participation and ownership. The events were a combination of a poster exhibition, showing the various activities, complemented by audio-visual displays and performances. The event captured the wide range of activities, awareness creating events, etc. leading to the participatory management of wetlands.

3. Commemoration of World Wetland Day, 2 February

SIMMORS project in collaboration with core districts (Urambo and Kigoma District Councils) organizes and celebrates World Wetland Day, 2nd of February each year in

villages implementing SIMMORS project activities in alternating basis. In 2004, a peak event was held at Mumbara village along Lake Sagara, while in 2006 peak celebrations were in Kasisi village, Kigoma District. During 2 February 2007, World Wetland Day celebrations were conducted in Lumbe village, Urambo District.

4. Production of Awareness Materials

Project has been implementing CEPA strategy through production of various awareness materials with messages on issues related to wetlands conservation and management.

4.1 Maisha Maji Magazine

The project continually designed and produced a Maisha Maji magazine with articles on identified key issues related to wetlands conservation and management in the Ramsar Site since 2002. It increased opportunities for writers to broaden sources for content and communities in contributing to articles stories, poetry, song lyrics, games and quizzes. Four issues have been published and distributed to stakeholders to date.

4.2 T-shirts and caps printing

In 2005, a total of 1,000 (one thousand) t-shirts and 1,000 (one thousand) caps were printed and distributed to relevant stakeholders. The same amount of the above-mentioned items has been ordered for printing through i-print in Dar es Salaam in line with SIMMORS budget and action plan for FY 2006/07.

4.3 Production of four booklets on legal/policy aspects

The project produced four booklets on legal/policy aspects of natural resources management (fisheries, environment, water, land and other related fields). A total of 20,000 booklets have been produced and distributed to stakeholders (Game Reserves, Urambo and Kigoma District Councils, Wildlife Division and SWM- Iringa and Mbeya). The project also during COP 9 meeting held in Arusha produced various leaflets and posters with relevant messages on wetland issues.

5. Radio Programmes

This is among the priority activities identified in the CEPA strategy. A series of 12 radio slots were developed and broadcasted through Radio Tanzania Dar es Salaam-Kigoma in October 2006. The production of radio programme was envisaged as a tool to promote sustainable wetlands management in and around the Ramsar Site.

Both planning and implementation of the radio programme was participatory enough as format of the radio programme and schedule for recording of songs, dramas and interviews were agreed with stakeholders.

Conclusion

Implementing CEPA activities outdoors and in the wetland areas has a lot of positive spin-offs (including the wetland area gets attention and recognition; people learn what is meant by wetland, its roles and functions if we really stand on it. As a success, there is a lot of goodwill and support towards the project and wetland resources management at all levels in and around the Malagarasi-Muyovozi Ramsar Site.

There is a strong and wide demand for written information especially guide books and technical information about wetland ecology etc. as the extent of the Malagarasi-

Muyovozi Ramsar Site and its national and international importance need to be explained to all stakeholders at all levels.