

7th February 2011

RAMSAR SECRETARIAT
Rue Mauverney 28.CH – 1196 (ramsar@ramsar.org)
GLAND SWITZERLAND

RE: WORLD WETLANDS DAY CELEBRATION.

Attached please find the report for your action and records.



Lucy N.MAKOSI
Meru Conservation Area.
P.O BOX 11 – 60600
MAUA - KENYA

MERU CONSERVATION AREA

1.0 INTRODUCTION.

World Wetlands Day? : 2 February each year is World Wetlands Day. It marks the date of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea.

WWD was celebrated for the first time in 1997 and made an encouraging beginning. Each year, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and groups of citizens at all levels of the community have taken advantage of the opportunity **to undertake actions aimed at raising public awareness of wetland values and benefits in general and the Ramsar Convention in particular.** From 1997 to 2008, the Convention's Web site has posted reports from more than

Meru Park Education department has annually been organizing and coordinating the World Wetlands day celebrations within Igembe District.

2.0 ACTIVITIES.

The 2011 Wetlands day was celebrated at Kakungu Wetland with the main function being held in Nthambiro Primary school.

The Participants included:

- ✚ Momwere/Nthambiro Community Group.
- ✚ Local Administration.
- ✚ National Environment Management Authority (NEMA).
- ✚ Ministry of Agriculture
- ✚ Ministry of Lands.
- ✚ Equity Bank
- ✚ Kenya Commercial Bank
- ✚ School Education Department.

Absentees with Apology.

- Forest Department
- Water resources Management Authority.
- Community Warden

MERU CONSERVATION AREA

2:1 Planting Commemoration trees at Kakungu Wetland.



This was done by the above mentioned stake holders at the Kakungu Wetland.

2:1:1 Why Kakungu Wetland?

Kakungu is one of the main tributaries of Mutundu River. This River runs from Upstream Nthambiro area entering the Park at Kanjoo area. It one of the Biggest Rivers in Meru National Park ;in terms of Water Volume and Size. It is therefore one of the core rivers feeding the animals throughout the year.

The Momwere Community group manages the wetlands in order to get water for irrigation and leave enough water to run down the river for downstream use in the park..This collaboration has seen the river full of water round the year.

MERU CONSERVATION AREA

2:2 CELEBRATIONS AT THE MAIN EVENT VENUE :- NTHAMBIRO PRIMARY SCHOOL



The main celebrations started at 11.30 as opposed to 10.00am due to unavoidable circumstances.

2:2:1 Entertainment.

Entertainment was done by three schools and various Individuals from the schools. These include: - Songs, Poems, Plays and Mashahiri

Kanjoo Primary, Thambiro and Matiandui Secondary.

MERU CONSERVATION AREA



(Matiandui secondary and Kanjoo primary entertaining the crowd.)

2:2:2 BRIEF ORIENTATION /OVERVIEW OF THE CELEBRATION.

The Meru Park Warden Education briefed the gathering on the meaning of the World wetlands day and its significance to the conservationists and the world at large. The warden also informed the public on the various themes adopted each year and their relevance.

MERU CONSERVATION AREA

PROGRAMME OF THE EVENT

TIME	GROUP	Action.
08.30	Arrival of Maua Visitor /Departure to Kakungu Wetland	Lucy/Stakeholders.
09.00 - 09.30	Planting of Tree:- (Warma,Lands,Nema, Agriculture,KWS,COMMUNITY,Local admin)	Muriithi/Henry Maingi
09.45	Departure to Nthambiro Primary	
10.00 -10.05	Opening Prayers	Z.Kariuki
10.06 – 10.15	Welcome note: - H/T Nthambiro primary -Chief Nguyuyu	
10.15 – 10.30	Entertainment	Lucy
10.30 – 10.40	Brief Orientation/Overview of the Day. Theme: "Forests for wetlands and water"	Lucy
10.40 - 12.50	✓ Momwere Community Group	H.Maingi.
	✓ Chief Nguyuyu Location	Mr.Mutwa
	✓ Community Warden (MNP)	Nelson
	✓ Forest Dept	
	✓ WARMA	<u>Akotha</u>
	✓ Lands	Mr.Owuor
	✓ Agriculture	Bob David
	✓ Assistant Education Officer	Mr.Mugambi
	✓ Equity Bank	P.Marigu
	✓ Kenya Commercial Bank	Mr. Muuga
	✓ Nema	Mr. Kibirichia
	✓ KWS(ECA)	J.KIRUI
12.50 – 12.55	• List of successful students in Essay	Lucy
	• Vote of Thanks	L.Mango
12.55 -13.00	Closing payers /Departure	Z.Kariuki
	MC	Z. Kariuki

Global Warming was said to have resulted from human activities like forest destruction and increased emissions of carbon gases into the atmosphere. This was said to threaten biodiversity as it has led to disappearance of vital wildlife habitat for animals and birds.

MERU CONSERVATION AREA

2:2:3 SPEECHES.

All invited guests were given chance to give brief speech on the importance and other issues interconnected to wetland conservation. Speaker after speaker each cited the diminishing resources especially water and watershed hence leading to thirsty country residents globally.

Unauthorised farming activities were said to have contributed immensely to the disappearance of wetlands.

3.0 STUDENTS ESSAY COMPETITION

A topic generated from the 2011 Wetland celebration theme was given to student from the neighboring schools. The essays were marked and successful student were awarded with a small group and later a free tour to the park.

4.0 CONCLUSION.

The event was a success with participation from most of the government bodies represented within Igembe District. However it was noted with lots regret that the core people WARMA did not attend the function which was quite important.

MERU CONSERVATION AREA

5.0 PICTORIAL.



MERU CONSERVATION AREA



MERU CONSERVATION AREA