
KWS/MNP/CE/494

18th February 2009

The Ramsar Africa org
SWITZERLAND

Attn Cynthia Kibata

RE: WORLD WETLANDS CELEBRATION REPORT 12/02/2009.

Attached herein please find the above report for your records and action

L.N.MAKOSI
WARDEN EDUCATION

MERU CONSERVATION AREA

INTRODUCTION

World wetland Day is a day set aside on 2nd February each year to mark the date of the signing of the convention on wetlands on 2nd February 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar.

Each year, government agencies, non-governmental organizations and groups of citizens at all levels of the community take the 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.

This year's suggested theme is *river basin and their management* and the slogan is "**upstream – downstream wetlands connect us all**"

In pursuit of this slogan, Kenya Wildlife Service as lead agency in conservation organized a regional celebration held in Maua Town on the 12th February 2009 to mark the day in the world of conservation and management of wetlands. The event was aimed at raising public awareness and sensitization on values and benefits accrued from the wetlands.

The people were made to look around at their own wetlands and its interconnections with the environment around it. It was also a good chance for the public to know how the wetlands benefits the surroundings and of course, how activities throughout the river basin affects the wetland.

"Upstream, down stream wetlands connect us all"

The theme was quite ideal and especially because it depicted how the activities from the river sources could have far reaching side effects to human and other living organisms many miles from the river sources. Each one is upstream or down stream from another and the activities undertaken by each individual directly affects the other person down stream. Industrial, commercial and agricultural activities contribute to higher percentages of wetland pollution and unless we employ concerted efforts from all wetland users then wetlands will remain used and abused forever.

PARTICIPATING GROUPS

Participants were drawn from a wide spectrum of stakeholders from the administrators to the school going children.

Forest Department, Water Resource Management Authority (WARMA), local council, local leaders, and primary and secondary school children participated in the event.

Safaricom mobile provider and Kenya Wildlife Service co – sponsored the whole event in providing 500 T/shirts terms to the participants.

Over 700 people participated actively in the event which due to the human activities in the area Was seen a great success.

ACTIVITIES

1. Essay competition

The essay competition was done prior to the event date and it was meant to assess how students understood the theme of the year. Twelve (12) were chosen; six primary and six secondary. Class eight pupils and form three students from each of the selected category of the schools wrote the essay which were collected and marked basing on the theme.

Secondary school Topic – Upstream, down stream wetlands connect us all

Primary Scholl Topic – Importance of wetlands.

Marks were awarded basing on four items.

- (i) Theme
- (ii) Grammer
- (iii) Handwriting
- (iv) Number of words.

ESSAY WINNERS.

		1	2	3	4	5
	<u>Primary School</u>	Eliza Ngole 30/40	Gatwiri Muriithi 27/40	Mwendwa Polly 23/40	Mwendwa penina 21/40	Harun Ngole 20/40
2	Hannah Primary School	-Lydia N.Kamau, -Esther Mali 34/40		Elost Kajuri 33/40	Isiah Thurania 32/40	
3	Kathithine Primary School	George Ithari 27/40	Jeremiah Mwenda 24/40	Benson Kairigwa 23/40	-Mutemi A.Belinda, - Timothy Mutethia 22/40	
4	St. Pauls Primary School	David Mukana 33/40	-Leah Kinyua , -James Mwirigi 31/40		Joy.N.Kanana 29/40	Lynette Mugambi 28/40
5	Burieruri Secondary Schools	Katiba Douglas 37/40	Gikundi Muenda 35/40	Andrew Mugambi 33/40	Kobia Mutwiri Reuben 31/40	Nyaga.K.Murimi 30/40
7	Kangeta Girls Sec School	Winfred Njeri 33/40	Lucy Gakii 31/40	-Lilian Kiambui, -Janice Mulewa 30/40		
8	Kiegoi Sec School	-Raphael Kirimi, -Jane Nkatha 33/40	Marylita, Karimi 32/40	-Faith Nkirote, -Mukiru .B. Mutwiri, -Japhet . K. Ithibua 26/40		
9	Ntunene Girls Sec School	Benedeta Malulu 36/40	Frida Kalwilo 34/40	Joyce Kathia 33/40	-Dorcas Karimi -winnie kubai 32/40	
10	Maua Girls	Leah Kanjingi 36/40	Triza Mussa 34/40	-Christine Alex -Judy Gakii 31/40		Kaninu Mercy 29/40

The highest overall was a student from Burieruri boys Secondary who scored 37 out of 40 marks.

2. KWS – Safaricom Foot Ball Match

A group of boys under 14years from within Ncungulu Primary school and the Maili Tatu (the venue premises) entertained the crowd with a 90 minutes foot ball match. The group was divided into two teams named after the key sponsors - Kenya wildlife Service (KWS) and Safaricom. Safaricom beat KWS in goals (1- 0).



3. Litter collection

The Maili Tatu shopping centre like many other centres within the region was littered with polythene bags which is currently a big problem and a threat to our environment. The participants collected and burned all the bags within the centre.

4. Tree planting.



Safaricom mobile provider official planting a tree



Kenya wildlife service assistant director



Community members planting a tree

watering a tree

This was done at the Mporoko wetland and due to the current dry weather condition only a few tree seedlings were planted by the leaders, and the wetland management community group.

5. Speeches

One speaker after the other had the same message that there was need to unite and save our wetlands if we need a future. Meru National Park is situated down stream of Maua town which is within the Nyambene hills from where most of the rivers flowing into the park come from. Survival of the park will be determined by collaboration with the general public within the general area because as people destroys vegetation it means rivers down stream will dry up hence forcing wild animals like the elephants move upstream in search of water hence escalating the Human –Wildlife conflicts.



District forest officer



KWS Jica volunteer



Assistant Director – Eastern conservation area



Arid lands officer during the function



Water resource management authority officer



Safaricom Officer makes a speech

6.ENTERTAINMENT



CONCLUSION

Most people seem to do a lot of harm to the environment sunknowingly while others may be ignorant and constant reminder with efforts from all stakeholders to could make a difference because all united we can reverse the trend of wetland misuse within Meru region.

OTHERS PICTORIAL



Event Participants watching happenings of the day.



Kws officials looking on



At the tree planting venue





KWS Forester(forefront in green) assists in planting trees



Some of the information posters



After the function – Warden Education chats with kids.