

HEALTHY WETLANDS, HEALTHY PEOPLE 2008 REPORT

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I first express my sincere gratitudes to Ramsar for the quick response when I Ignorantly requested for the WWD materials without prior knowledge on the impacts it would make to the wetland users.

Although my field endeavors to meet as many people as possible were hampered by a very severe post election moment in the whole republic, this did not stop me from reaching my vicinity. The posters and stickers communicated it all to people as I supplemented more information on any inquiry. My previous knowledge on wetlands and the use of the wetland CD supplied by the Ramsar where used.

The activities of WWD involved: printing more posters and stickers to supplement materials supplied by Ramsar. This is because of their high demand to potential wetland conservationists ranging from the locals to the educated groups.



Plate 1: the WWD reporter (right) with the locals on a fish pond made in one of the wetland. An environmental impact assessment (EIA) lacked before wetland-pond conversion



Plate 2: some of direct benefits enjoyed by the locals from wetlands (availability of cheap proteins), (photo taken during WWD 2008 in Kenya)

Limitations for WWD

There was limitation in the number of posters, stickers and CDs required. The key limitation was finance for printing, mobilizing users and travel because some areas needed special means for accessibility.

Way forward

This report strongly recommends for the activities of WWDs in the forthcoming year. I noted the following gap concerning my districts wetland users.

1. there is need for an adequate time and resources to educate communities on wise use of wetlands. This is because the response was positive that would lead to

conservation of these endangered ecosystems. This calls for support financially and materially for the related project.

2. there is need to initiate some community driven activities such as mat making that are friendly to the state and functioning of the wetlands other than dangerous activities witnessed such as wetland conversion. This also needs financial and more material support.

'Lets conserve the wetlands; a fragile and economic ecosystem yet threatened by increased pressures by man'

Thanks