

**Dunga Swamp Management Plan Technical Scoping Meeting at Wildlife Clubs of Kenya (WCK)
Kisumu Station on 23rd February 2010**

Present	Organization	Tel:	Email
1. Omula John	Jonam Ecotourism	0208089764	omolojohn@yahoo.com
2. Edward Mwendwa	WCK – Kisumu	0722377374	eddiemwendwa@yahoo.com
3. Tom Mbuya	Hippo Focus	0718493301	
4. Philip Kirui	WCK – Kisumu	0721263797	pmining@yahoo.com
5. Paul Rangoro	NADUKATO CBO	071924117	prangoro@yahoo.com
6. Patrick Ochieng	LVSb	0770498617	ochinaturearts@yahoo.com
7. Sijenje Eliakim	KOLWA CBO	0736437743	
8. Paula Zohl	LVSb	0715059934	paulazoehl@gmx.ole
9. Evarastus Obura	LVSb	0723412576	evarastus@yahoo.com
10. Richard Ojijo	Dunga BMU	0723049228	richard2001@yahoo.com
11. Francis Omondi	LVSb	0723076809	fogango@yahoo.com
12. Leonard Akwany			
13. Kennedy Omondi	WCK – Kisumu	0728403997	omoshken07@yahoo.com
14. Festus Njere	Assistant Chief	0727662505	
15. Charles Okello		0727644503	
16. Lawrence Owaga	LVSb	0726530356	
17. Elijah Obadha	Nature Kenya	0720611748	eobadha02@yahoo.com
18. Patrick Muraguri	KWF		
19. Serah Munguti	Nature Kenya	0724281986	advocacy@naturekenya.org
20. William Omoro	KWS	0724233617	omorobill@gmail.com
21. Waswala Brian	KWS	0721258178	waswala@kws.go.ke
22. Issac Ondigo			
23. Stella Kamwasir	NEMA – Kisumu	0721263788	skamwasir@yahoo.co.uk
24. William Sang	KWS – Kisumu		
25. Willy Cheboi	DC – Kisumu		
26. John Raila	DECTTA	0724436988	1364 Kisumu
27. Fredrick Lala	KWS	0721764562	flala@kws.go.ke

Absent:

Okeyo Owour viredresearch@yahoo.com

Agenda

1. Prayers, Self Introduction and Opening Remarks (KWS, NK, DO)
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Dunga Swamp Site Description
4. Socio-economic Survey Report on Dunga
5. Dunga Swamp Management Plan and Management Strategies
6. Institutional framework for Dunga Swamp Conservation and Management
7. Way forward
8. AOB

Min 01/2010: Prayers, Self Introduction and Welcoming Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 9.10am after a word of prayer by Mr. Tom Mbuya. The moderator then gave welcoming remarks and welcomed remarks from various stakeholders. He appreciated the support and active participation the panel members would offer during the planning and execution of subsequent events. He noted that despite the short period of time the committee had before the invitation, a large delegation had arrived. Various key stakeholders emphasized the need to safeguard, restore, conserve and manage the Dunga Swamp through wise use principle and promote alternative sources of livelihoods with the aim of improving the communities' socio-economic status. The purpose of this meeting was basically to introduce the aspect of developing and implementing a management plan through participatory based approach, with the local communities as the major stakeholders. The chair singled out the efforts and support provided by Kenya Wildlife Service and Nature Kenya. He emphasized on the need to swiftly focus and engage the local stakeholders in the process.

Min 02/02/2010: Adoption of Agenda

Members went through the agenda for the day which was unanimously adopted.

Min 03/02/2010: Dunga Swamp Description

Members present within the meeting were briefed on Dunga Swamp Site with reference to its geo-location, biodiversity status, ecological and socio-economic importance, current threats and conservation efforts already on ground. The site is an approximately 4 km west of Kisumu City center; an Important Bird Area (IBA) that offers refuge to restricted range endemic globally-threatened and near-threatened avi-fauna, fish sp. and the semi-aquatic Sitatunga antelope (*Tragelaphus spekei*). The swamp offers various eco-services such as water retention and purification, dry season grazing land, water for domestic use and fish spawning and breeding sites; while economic activities present included fishing, grazing, papyrus harvesting for cottage industry (mats, thatch and baskets). Current threats included overharvesting of papyrus, pollution, raw sewage discharge, reclamation, invasive species (*Eichhornia crassipes*), hunting and conversion of land for agriculture. Ongoing conservation efforts included community sensitization and awareness, promotion of eco-tourism and wetland rehabilitation. A sketch map of the swamp was drawn highlighting the swamp, major road and river channels, important biodiversity spots (sitatunga and the fresh water otters) and areas of concern (fish breeding sites). It was agreed that the area between rivers Kibos and Nyamasaria to the lake shores be the major conservation area as it is refuge to the Sitatunga, fish breeding sites and avi-fauna.

Min 04/02/2010: Socio-economic Survey Report on Dunga

The local communities lacked proper housing with 50 % of households live in semi permanent houses while 17.8% of the houses were in very bad condition. Sale of farm produce was the major socio-economic activity (35.6%) while other sources of revenue were salary, rental houses and kiosks/small businesses. The community used trees as the major source of fuel (27.8%), 23.5% used them for building while 11.1% did not appreciate trees. Majority of the community appreciated suitable use (fish farming & conservation) and ecotourism as the best land uses within the swamp while the others valued it for farming.

Min 05/02/2010: Dunga Swamp Management Plan and Strategies

Members present were highlighted on the plight of Dunga Swamp and the need to develop and implement the Dunga Swamp Management Plan; with an aim of improving the community economic and social status; and environmental and wildlife conservation. The local community was informed that a bottom up approach of management was preferred as opposed to the top-down-approach since the local community was the major stakeholder while the KWS and NK were focal points and advice providers within the process. The major guiding principles to the process were **wise use** as per the Ramsar Convention, **precautionary principle, collaborative and participatory approach** and **polluter pay principal**. The local community would be instrumental in active management, identification of boundaries and conservation zones for mapping, propose conservation activities; eco-tourism opportunities and social amenities as per the community requirements, management and implementation of the plan.

Various forms of conservation status (parks, reserves, sanctuaries and lease) were presented to the community and they were challenged to propose the way forward as per the community. This was to ensure that the communities would gain both directly and indirectly. KWS proposed to extend exchange programs to the community, with reference to conservation success stories that can be emulated at Dunga.

Min 06/02/2010: Institutional framework for Dunga Swamp Conservation and Management

The members were informed on the various sectoral policies and regulation that had been in place for the protection of the environment. Some of the sectoral regulations included: EMCA Act, Fisheries Act, Water act, Wildlife and conservation Act among others. These regulations have been noted to be having lots of conflicts due to unclear boundary of action. Members were again briefed on the progress in the adoption of the national Wetland Policy. The need for collaborative implementation of the various regulations was noted as a vital role in ensuring the wise use of the Dunga Wetland. Community awareness on legislations was also noted to be part of the development of the plan.

Min 07/02/2010: Way Forward

The chair opened the floor to suggestions on the way forward in achieving the management plan objectives. The members agreed that a number of activities would follow immediately to see the progress in achieving of the Management Plan for Dunga. These included:

- Site Familiarization by the members of the committee;
- Establishment of a core management team and ground team;
- Community awareness and sensitization;
- Identify stakeholders and resource user groups
- Resource based inventories, mapping (include multiple use zones) and research;
- Community consultations;
- Launch and adoption of the management plan;
- Implementation of management plan
- Monitoring and Evaluation

Min 08/02/2010: AOB

- Stakeholders were urged to work in unison and support KWS, NK and the community.
- Various support groups and CBOs were mandated by the Area Chief to educate people on the wrongs of burning papyrus.
- Area chief to hold *barazas* and educate locals on the proposed conservation efforts.
- Community to be instrumental in area mapping process that would begin in March 2010.
- During mapping, the start of IBA is to be identified and new biodiversity survey done. An updated comprehensive inventory of the IBA 037 is to be developed.
- Rapid biodiversity inventories to begin but comprehensive will be done with time and as per resources in by KWS and NK collaboration with other agencies and communities.

The core management team comprises of KWS, NK, KDA (Kolwa Development Association), NEMA and The Office of the President (OOP).

The core management team is scheduled to have a meeting before/on the **10/03/2010** at a venue yet to be conveyed.

There being no other business, the moderator thanked NK for convening and facilitation the meeting, KWS as a key stakeholder in conservation, the OOP through the area Chief Mr. Festus Njere, for their support, WCK for the venue and all stakeholders present. The moderator adjourned the meeting at 16.45pm after a word of prayer.