

The LNGG Monthly

Newsletter of the Lake Naivasha Growers' Group

Agenda

- * NACOHAG Women's Football Tournament - Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th August, Karagita grounds
- * 1st All Africa Horticulture Congress - 31st August to 3rd September, Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi (www.globalhort.org)
- * Seminar by Drs. Becht and Harper - 9th September, Naivasha Sports Club at 2 pm
- * Naivasha Hortifair - Friday 11th and Saturday 12th September, Naivasha Sports Club (www.naivashahortifair.com)
- * Hortifair 2009 - 3rd to 16th October, RAI Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Important Notice:

Your annual environmental audits will be due end of the year. This report is an audit of environmental impact mitigation processes outlined in the environmental management plan (EMP) developed during the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or Initial Audit (IA) of your farm. The audit report is to be sent to NEMA Nairobi, who request 3 bound copies and one CD. Ensure your EIA or IA reference number, given by NEMA, is clearly printed on the front page of the report.

CESS vs MOU, Part 2

Wrangling over CESS payment for horticultural produce for export to the Municipal Council of Naivasha has been going on since the mid-1990s, with the current status being a court injunction filed in August 2007, by LNGG and the Kenya Flower Council. This injunction remains in force today. However, LNGG has always accepted that the inflow of horticultural workers and associated industrial activity within the Municipality has created stresses on the MCN resources and that the industry should recognise its responsibility as a key player in the Naivasha community and assist the Council voluntarily in its developmental activities rather through the imposition of a cess.

The main concerns in implementing this proposal have centred on control, accountability and transparency of the use of funds contributed. These issues are addressed in the proposed MOU, which will be distributed to all members of LNGG along with this newsletter for comment.

After a series of discussions with MCN, LNGG has agreed on a basis on which members who wish to contribute may do so. There has been wide discussion on what is an equitable means of calculating individual contributions such as a charge based on the number of employees in each business, but for a number of reasons there is now agreement on a contribution based on the area under cultivation. There has also been extensive debate on a differential charge depending on whether the product is under greenhouses, tunnels, shade house or open field crops, vegetables or flowers. In the end it is proposed for a start that all flowers contribute at a rate of KShs2 per m² per annum and vegetables at a rate of KShs0.25 per m² per annum.

LNGG has been under considerable pressure to sign and implement the MOU without further delay, and it should be noted that a commitment to pay from 1 April 2009 was made pending finalisation

of terms that the Committee believe protect the interests of its members yet demonstrate a willingness to contribute to the community in which we operate.

It should also be noted that the MOU places a responsibility on MCN to pursue contributions from non LNGG members in the spirit that it is the industry as a whole that should assist the Council and not just LNGG members.

It is hoped to shortly launch this initiative with a meeting with the full Council at which payment for the period April to September will be handed over. Those members who wish to contribute should do so by making their payment in the first place to LNGG. This will enable individual contributions to be officially documented and the movement of funds within the Council's finances to be more easily monitored.

By Richard Fox

Committee member conducting negotiations with MCN

FLO wing Forward

Although LNGG and many other growers in Naivasha have been involved in numerous projects to help the community, many of these are small and not well publicized, resulting in the notion that we do nothing. So, the question begs to be asked, how can we make a more visible and real positive impact on the community in Naivasha?

In our recent member survey, though still being completed, many LNGG members were interested in pooling CSR funds towards projects that LNGG could ad-

minister. The potential projects would be presented at the Annual General Meeting and the ones selected would then be embarked on as an LNGG initiative. However, the LNGG committee has also been toying with the idea of having joint projects with the Fair Trade Labeling Organizations International (FLO), which would mean a lot more capacity to make a big impact.

Although this idea is still in the pipeline, it has the potential to make a huge difference. If you have any comments or ideas on this

proposal, which will be discussed in depth at our next AGM, please send them over email to the LNGG secretariat.



Inside Karagita, South Lake Road, Naivasha (2009) - The site of the first joint project?

An Afternoon with the Experts

“As the lake declines in size and increases in degradation, the services which it provides for people and wildlife progressively disappear. Few people understand this, which is why each person or company thinks that his/her/its own impact does not matter. The lake is much more than a large puddle of water it is a living being that is dying. With due diligence half a million people could "feed" on a healthy lake, for many years or indefinitely, but not one on a dead one.”

The Lake Naivasha Water Resource Users Association (LANAWRUA) has organized a seminar entitled "Naivasha ecosystem services - why bother and how to restore?" on September 9, 2009 starting 2 pm sharp, at the Naivasha Sports Club.

An introduction will be given by Professor Kenneth Mavuti from the University of Nairobi,

Department of Zoology. The

speakers include Dr. David Harper, University of Leicester, Dr. Robert Becht, ITC, and Edward Morrison, University of Leicester.

A film made by Community-Based Biodiversity Conservation Films (CBCF) on the Lake Naivasha Catchment presented by Jackson Komen from Lake Bogoria National Reserve will be shown after the talks.

Entrance is free of charge and open to anyone interested in the Lake.

This will be a worthwhile seminar to attend, so please do so and forward the information to as many Naivasha residents as you can. Knowledge is power!

By LANAWRUA

WSUP with that?

Children playing in heaps of garbage, weary and sore donkeys pulling along carts with containers of water from questionable sources, and unhygienic pit latrines dotting the landscape pretty well sums up the situation in most of the peri-urban settlements around Naivasha. To help change this situation, Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP) has already embarked on a pilot project for delivering sustainable community-led water and sanitation services to Karagita and we can help!

WSUP started with a feasibility study in 2006 and then in 2007, management structures in the form of a committee comprising of community members from Karagita (the pilot site), the Naivasha water company (NAIVAWASS), and the Rift Valley Water Services Board (RVWSB), along with other partners where necessary, was formulated. This committee, and similar ones developed at each site, will be responsible for ensuring that the pro-poor focus of the project is maintained and that the project is sustainable. Even donkey-cart water vendors are also assisting in construction and uptake of hygiene and sanitation messages. The involvement of the community in decision-making and related responsibilities, and the willingness to partner with NAIVAWASS gives the whole project a positive outlook.

Apart from management, WSUP has also conducted awareness campaigns on hygiene and the effects of fluoride with school children and the community, as well as, strengthening NAIVAWASS' capacity in the form of strategic planning, human resource management reforms and installation of billing and financial management systems.

WSUP is already on the ground in Karagita, having built 8 water kiosks with reticulated piping and a storage area that can hold up to 40,000 l of water, still under construction. Each kiosk will have a defluoridation unit installed by Catholic Diocese of Nakuru from which treated



Support structure for soon-to-be installed raised water storage tank at the storage site in Karagita (2009)

water will be supplied for drinking at KES 3 per 20 l. Untreated borehole water will also be sold at a lower price of KES 1 to 2 per 20 l. The 8 kiosks will serve an esti-

mated 5000 to 8000 people, however the aim is to increase this to 25000 people by building 8 more kiosks by mid-2010. They are also conducting feasibility and scoping studies for project extension to cover Kamere and Kasarani.

Two other aspects of this project include improved sanitation in the form of improved pit latrine systems and rehabilitation of existing systems, and solid waste management. Due to various constraints these aspects have been slow in progressing, but mainly because access to good water is the key issue for the settlements. However, WSUP would like to progress on these and can act as a link between interested parties to push the development of eco-sanitation facilities within the Naivasha settlements.

So, where can we come in? LNGG has already engaged WSUP in a number of discussions on the modalities of constructing the water kiosks and equipping them with defluoridation units. WSUP encourages partners to adopt the construction of one or more kiosks, with the only requirement being to maintain WSUP's building standards.

On a recent visit to the site, it was clear that their standards are high, further em-

(Continued on page 4)

WSUP....

phasizing the longevity inherently built into this project. Hence, if you want to support, as an individual grower, the building of a kiosk or eco-sanitation facilities in any of the above mentioned settlements please contact LNGG for details. In the meantime, the LNGG committee will continue assessing the possibility that this become one of the projects

that LNGG administers in 2010.

With information from WSUP Naivasha



One of the water kiosks already in place in Karagita (2009)

LNRA and LNGG

A major constraint in managing our natural resources here in Naivasha is the duplication of efforts and lack of coordination between the innumerable groups and organizations.

The LNGG and the Lake Naivasha Riparian Association (LNRA) are two of the more recognized stakeholder groups in Naivasha and even we were not doing too well in coordinating our efforts.

Hence, in September 2008, LNGG and LNRA moved into shared office space in Lakeview to increase coordination of activities between the two and also to improve our visibility in the community.

Being next door to one another has already helped in the form of the joint effort on mapping land-use around the lake (LNGG Monthly Ed 1, Vol 1), as well as holding joint

meetings with various other groups in an effort to reduce the number of conflicting views in the community. The plans for formalizing a larger conservation forum for the lake basin, as discussed at the LNGG AGM of 2008, is still being planned and it is hoped that this would be an umbrella for all groups to come under towards the singular goal of sustainable management of the lake and its environs.

A Policy for Horticulture

A few months back David of LNGG had requested response from you on a draft policy that had been forwarded to us by the Kenya National Taskforce on Horticulture. Thank you to all who responded with comments. These comments have been forwarded to the Horticulture Policy Drafting Committee comprised of members of the Kenya National Taskforce on Horticulture, which has been

given the responsibility, by the Agriculture Secretary Ministry of Agriculture, of developing a stakeholder-approved policy for horticulture.

A draft policy had been developed a few years back but it was rejected by stakeholders who felt that it was not inclusive enough. This time around, the committee that has been approved includes representa-

tives from both public and private sectors. The public sector includes Ministry of Agriculture, Horticulture Crop Development Authority (HCDA), KEPHIS, Agriculture Sector Coordination Unit (ASCU), and Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI). The private sector includes the Kenya Horticulture Council (which will include FPEAK, KFC, and

(Continued on page 5)

Horticulture policy

LNGG), and Kenya National Federation of Agricultural Producers (KENFAP). Other groups will be co-opted on each section of the policy to ensure that correct and relevant clauses are developed for all aspects of horticulture.

LNGG made a point that a balance between public and private sector players should be maintained throughout the development of the policy.

We are now awaiting confir-

mation of each committee member by the Taskforce chairman, Dr. Kedera, following which a meeting to discuss the terms of reference and time-lines will take place. The Taskforce, however, has given a deadline of

June 2010 for the completion of the document, including dissemination of the policy for stakeholder approval and comments

Incentives for Conservation

It is undeniable, the link between users of natural resources. Each one will affect the other, and this is especially critical when the users are linked by a water body. Such is the case with Lake Naivasha and its source rivers, the Malewa and Gilgil. Over the years, Lake Naivasha has been reducing in quality partly due to the influx of sediments and other run-off coming in through the rivers and partly due to the reduction of the natural filters in the form of the *papyrus* fringe. The change in sediment load into the lake also has had implications on its depth and hence, susceptibility to evaporation. All put together we have a system that needs change, and one of these is a pilot project being conducted by CARE-Kenya, hosted by WWF-East Africa Regional Program Offices in Naivasha.

Payment for environmental services (PES) or incentive-based conservation is, simply put, a scheme where communities benefiting from an improved supply of high quality water (buyers) make payments in kind (not cash) to land owners/resource users/communities up-stream and around the lake (sellers) who

undertake conservation activities. In return, the sellers maintain conservation measures on their land to reduce nutrient input and erosion. In this way, both communities benefit (see figure).

As a result of the development of the Water Resource Users Associations within the Naivasha basin, it has been decided that the LANAWRUA will be the link between Lake Naivasha users and those up-stream. The commitment for the first 3 years from the Naivasha community is US\$30, 000 that will be raised via the LANAWRUA and be used to buy vouchers redeemable for agricultural implements by upstream communities. LNGG has already signed a letter consenting to involvement in the project as it was considered a worthwhile initiative.

CARE-Kenya is already on the ground having identified the most vulnerable farms, in terms of erosion and agricultural practice, within the Upper Tulaga (along the R. Turasha, a tributary of River Malewa) and Geta (in the upper Wanjohi area) regions. These two regions are 2 of the 5 hotspots identified in a Kenyatta University study in the upper catchments based

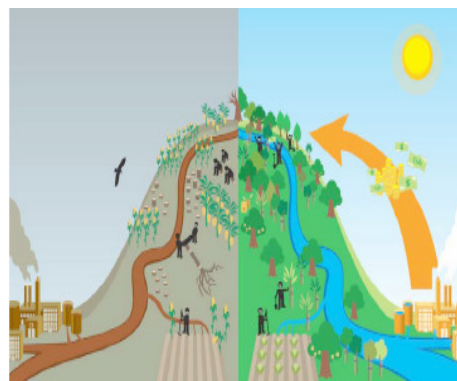
on susceptibility to erosion due to farming practice, topography and/or geology.

At a recent visit, it was noted that the slopes are incredible, some as great as 90% on which farming is practiced. At each participating farm, strips of napier grass are being constructed along contour lines to help terraces to develop naturally over time and reduce run-off into the rivers. The second initiative is to increase the number of indigenous trees, which the farmers are interspersing within the plots to increase tree cover and reduce erosion. The lack of rain has been a hindrance, but the farmers are optimistic and enthusiastic to be part of the solution as they recognize that there have been effects of tree removal

and bad farming practices.

The selected areas have functional WRUAs who have met with the LANAWRUA. All that remains is the signing of contracts between the upper and lower WRUAs and consent from all stakeholders within Naivasha who rely on the Lake's waters for commercial sustainability to complete the paperwork. After 2 years, if the project is a success, CARE-Kenya and WWF will scale-up to the 5 hotspots and revert all management of the projects to the WRUAs. Once again, a worthwhile project and another one that LNGG is considering for long-term support.

With information from Mark Ellis-Jones, Project Coordinator, PES CARE-Kenya



The PES Principle (Mark Ellis-Jones)

Replanting the Naivasha Basin

There are several tree-planting initiatives going on in the Naivasha. Several horticulture farms are growing and replanting trees on their land, the Rotary of Naivasha is looking for trees to plant in schools, and at the YMCA there is a community group that wants to start planting trees. These are developments that we, at the LNGG, would like to encourage.

Tree-planting could be a common goal for every stakeholder in the Naivasha basin. However, it is important that we grow the species that fit with the environment. Historically, the Aberdares, which is the upper boundary of the basin, con-

sisted of humid Afro-montane forest and bamboo. The Kinangop and Ol' Bolosat Plateau were large grassland plains and the upland areas were largely tree-savannah landscape and dryland forest. The bottom of the Rift Valley was an open savannah landscape. The lake shores,

with their fluctuating water levels, had tree species like *Acacia xanthophloea* (Fever tree). (Source: Becht, R., Odada, E., Higgins, S., 2006. *Lake Naivasha*).

Seeds and seedlings can be bought, for example, at the African Forest Tree Nursery,

Soysambo, Elementaita, but it is hoped that we can start producing these seedlings in larger numbers within the basin so the whole community can benefit.

With information from Eddy Verbeek

The following is a list of species considered indigenous, along with their various uses. This is a sample, a more detailed one having been prepared by WWF, which can be obtained from the LANAWRUA.

Species	Firewood	Charcoal	Timber
<i>Acacia xanthophloea</i>	X	X	X
<i>Brachyleana hulliensis</i>	X	X	X
<i>Calodendrum capense</i>	X	X	X
<i>Croton megalocarpus</i>	X	X	X
<i>Dombeya goetzenii</i>	X	X	X
<i>Euclea divinorum</i>	X		X
<i>Olea europaea ssp Africana</i>	X	X	X
<i>Teclea nobilis</i>	X	X	X

A Visual Trip

Here are a few photographs from a recent trip to the Turasha area with CARE-Kenya and WWF



Top left: Farming on slopes of up to 70%

Top right: Lower reaches of the River Turasha, major tributary of River Malewa

Bottom left: Konoike Dam, upstream of the picture of R. Turasha above. Notice the difference in levels before and after the dam



Lake Naivasha
Growers' Group

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